Torres signs $15 million spending bill. PAGE 2
MVA bolsters Busan flights with travel agent tour. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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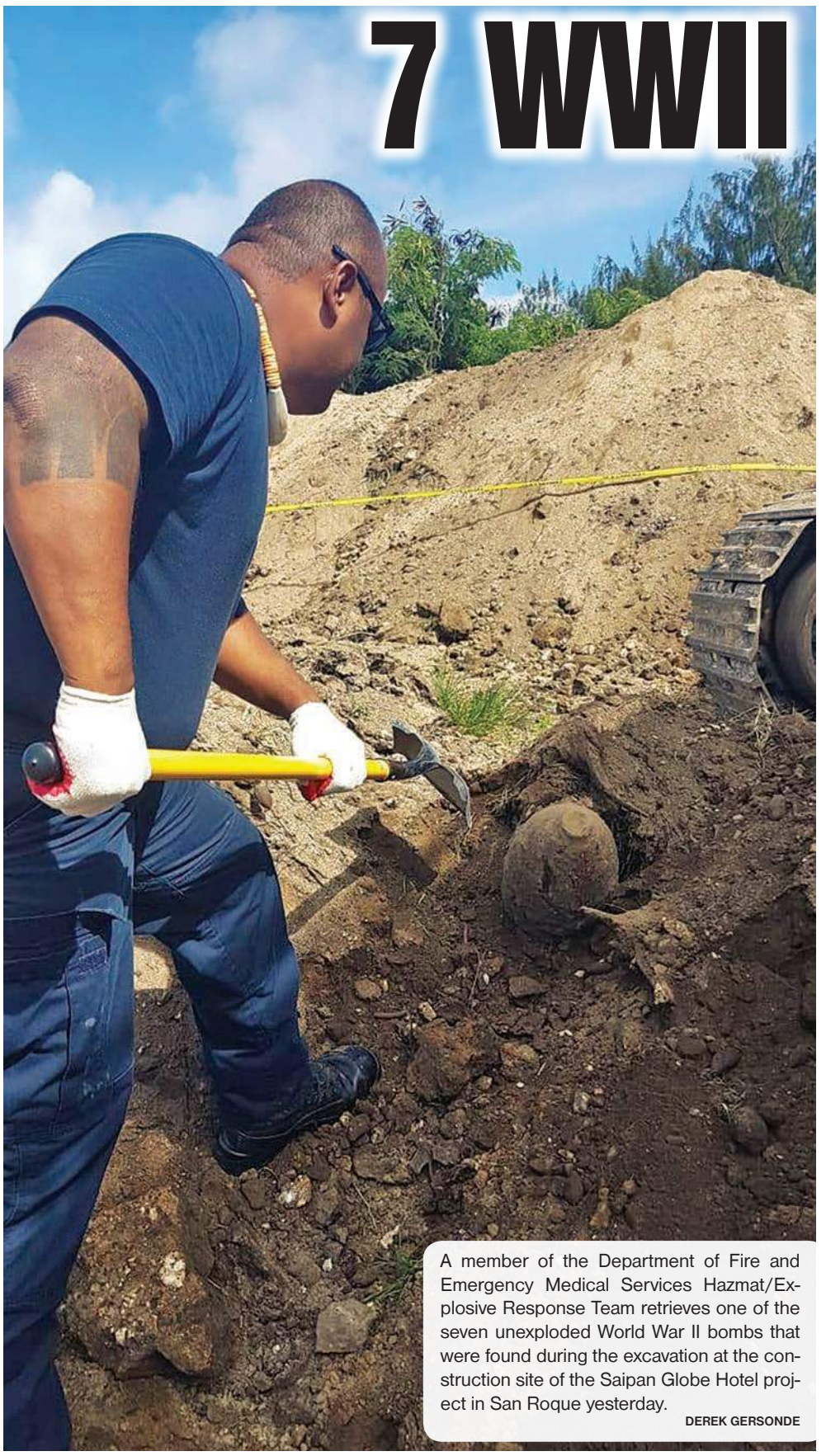
7 WWII bombs dug up



A member of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Hazmat/Explosive Response Team retrieves one of the seven unexploded World War II bombs that were found during the excavation at the construction site of the Saipan Globe Hotel project in San Roque yesterday.
DEREK GERSONDE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven unexploded World War II bombs were found yesterday at the construction site of Saipan Global Hotel, located south of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque.

Construction workers dug up the ordnance during excavation at the construction site of the hotel project.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Hazmat/Explosive Response Team responded to the site.

According to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde, four bombs were found buried one foot underground by the beach side.

A survey of the area turned up three more unexploded ordnances, found buried in the subsurface within the same proximity they were excavating.

Gersonde said a total of sev-

See BOMBS on Page 4

Cop seeks dismissal of 4 charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officer Dixon Kwon believes he has been exposed to double jeopardy implications by the Office of the Attorney General's filing of four out of seven traffic charges against him.

Double jeopardy, which means punishing an individual twice for one offense, is prohibited under the U.S. and CNMI constitutions.

Kwon, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, is asking the Superior Court to dismiss the four charges that he argues are "multiplicitous."

The four charges are driving while under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol

See COP on Page 4

Clearing of Pagan runway eyed

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

PAGAN—Pagan Island in the Northern Islands has remained cut off for many years because there is only one mode of transportation available to reach it—by boat.

Its 200-mile distance from Saipan translates to 20 hours of sea travel to Pagan and the boat trip is not regular,

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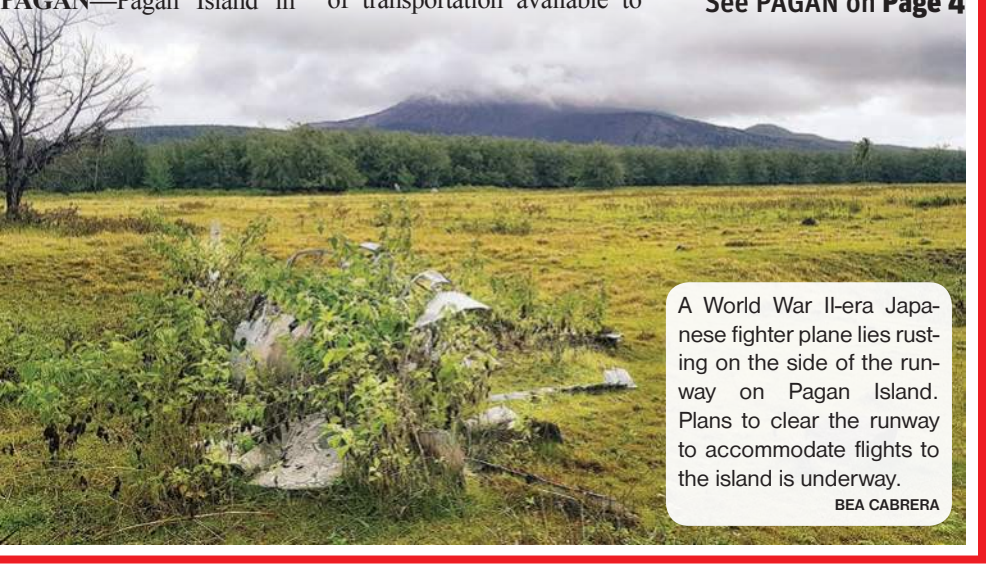

A World War II-era Japanese fighter plane lies rusting on the side of the runway on Pagan Island. Plans to clear the runway to accommodate flights to the island is underway.
BEA CABRERA

INSIDE

PACIFIC
A flag-raising ceremony honors veterans from the Port Authority of Guam.
PAGE 9

ASIA
A suicide bomber struck in Afghanistan, killing at least 19 people.
PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
The "Incredibles 2" become the best animated opening of all time, earning $180 million.
PAGE 21

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Local

Torres signs $15 million spending bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law over the weekend a bill that appropriates $15 million to several government programs and departments.

Torres signed Friday Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-164 after discussions in the conference committee delayed its enactment by weeks.

H.B. 20-164, now Public Law 20-61, appropriates $15 million from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account to several government programs and allocates funds to private telecommunications company Docomo Pacific, based on a 2016 memorandum of understanding.

About $7 million is allocated to the CNMI Judiciary's mold removal and remediation as well as the rehabilitation, relocation, and procurement of a new air-conditioning system for the Guma Hustisia, which remains closed to the public since March 2018.

Another $3 million goes to land taking compensation.

Some $2.4 million is allocated to Rota, with $1.2 million going to the Rota Pinatang Beach Park renovation project; salaries for municipal employees; the construction of a concrete wall to secure the Rota water cave area; Rota medical subsistence allowance; Rota Department of Public Safety Academy ongoing cycle operation, gear procurement, and supplies; Rota interisland medical referral air transportation costs; interisland medical referral patient and escort stipends; Northern Marianas Trade Institute programs for Rota students; and Rota student housing allowance, among many others.

"By the enactment of this law, our Rota patients and escorts will now be provided with stipends to help defray food costs and etc. when they are referred to Saipan," said Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) in a statement. "Moreover, the [appropriation includes] funding for housing allowances for our Rota students pursuing postsecondary education. Similarly, this can help augment our students' housing expenses."

A total of $1.2 million appropriated to Tinian goes to the improvement and pavement of Marpo Heights II subdivision

See BILL on Page 4

JKPL hosts weekly premiere of *Ketungu Chamorro*

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For individuals who are unable to access the Let's Learn Chamorro or *Ketungu Chamorro* series produced by Rivers Pictures, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will now host weekly screenings of new *Ketungu Chamorro* episodes every Saturday.

Last Saturday, JKPL premiered their first episode of the Let's Learn series. The premiere was attended by Public School System representatives, Indigenous Affairs Office representatives, and first lady Diann Torres.

The Let's Learn Series is a production of Rivers Pictures LLC with the intent to strengthen the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language not just in the CNMI but worldwide.

According to Valentina Rivera, the producer of the Let's Learn Series and owner of Rivers Pictures LLC, last Saturday was the first official premiere of *Ketungu Chamorro*.

"Usually we would just announce it publicly like through social media… but that was back in 2006 for Episode 1 and then Episode 2 was with first lady Dianne Torres," she said.

Rivera hopes that the series will also help students learn Chamorro. "The show is like bringing the classroom to your home," she said, adding that it will also allow families to learn the language together.

The episode that premiered last Saturday was the third episode of the first season of *Ketungu Chamorro*. The episode focused on counting in Chamorro, from 1 to 100.

The first episode that was released back in 2006 focused on the Chamorro alphabet and how to cook red rice and the second episode focused on Torres' book about Chamorro language comprehension.

For individuals who want to catch the brand-new episodes of *Ketungu Chamorro* at the JKPL, the library will host a premiere every Saturday from 6:30pm to 7pm at the children's section of the library. The JKPL will also re-air the video in its VTC room throughout the week.

For individuals who want to catch new episodes in the comfort of their home, you may visit the Let's Learn Chamorro series on YouTube or on Rivers Pictures Facebook pages.

SOCA set for late July 2018

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would be delivering his second State of the Commonwealth Address in late July.

In a letter dated June 15, 2018, to both House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Torres said he intends to deliver the second SOCA of his term on July 27, 2018, in a joint session of the CNMI Legislature.

His letter did not specify where and what time the SOCA would be held. Press secretary Kevin Bautista said the location of the SOCA would be announced at a later date.

The SOCA has traditionally been delivered at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill or the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

However, the governor recognizes that there has been an increase in the overall quality of life in recent years.

"Over the last few years, our Commonwealth has experienced tangible process that has provided more job opportunities and critical public services, and created an increase[d] sense of financial security within our community," Torres wrote to legislative leaders.

"While we recognize the challenges that still need to be addressed, we have an opportunity to further advance the dreams, goals, and interests of every single person who call these islands home. Looking ahead, we all share in the spirit of presenting solutions that address the critical issues affecting our people," he added.

Torres' previous SOCA was held on March 31, 2017, at the Multi-Purpose Center and focused on the CNMI's economic development.

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Senator wants oversight hearing on CPA

A Saipan senator is working with the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to conduct a possible oversight hearing on the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said that he is currently working with CPA board members and the Torres administration to gather information before a planned oversight hearing on CPA.

Igisomar did not disclose an exact date.

"…I met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to try and see other discussions with respect to what is happening at CPA and to get more information. The governor and I agreed to work together and see how we can collaborate with CPA to get things done," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Through the oversight hearing, Igisomar wants to clarify a range of issues, from the United Airlines issue to noise pollution complaints.

"There [are] serious issues I have heard from our constituents locally and it is a matter of me trying to have an effective meeting with the CPA at a management level in respect to their master plan on overall airport matters," he said.

At a June 6, 2018, session on Capital Hill, Igisomar expressed frustrations with CPA in relation to Senate Bill 20-50, which he claims could have prevented United Airlines from suspending its code-share partnership with Cape Air, which would have sustained flight services to Rota.

S.B. 20-50 seeks to mandate CPA to implement incentives and discount programs to entice airlines to boost flights to the CNMI. Igisomar stated that, according to a previous meeting with CPA, the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Development Authority, CPA maintained the position that Federal Aviation Administration guidelines prohibits them from doing so. The bill currently sits at the House Committee on Transportation.

"It is cost-prohibitive. That bill would have allowed CPA to get on their feet and work on [applying under the provisions of FAA] to ask for an incentive airline to help [Rota]—and they never did," Igisomar earlier said. "… There are people on Rota that are suffering because of our inadequacy and our inability."

The CNMI government is currently reviewing United Airlines' proposal to extend flights to Rota with annual subsidies ranging from $1.1 million up to $8 million. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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US Marshals arrest Edwin Blas

The U.S. Marshal Service arrested yesterday a federal probationer who was accused of punching his wife, hitting her mouth with a beer can, and shattering the windows of her car with a beer can and rock at a beach in Chalan Kanoa.

Deputy U.S. Marshal John Vega served the arrest warrant on Edwin Peter Blas.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI issued the warrant last Thursday over the domestic violence and for consuming alcohol on June 10 and 11.

Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy issued the arrest warrant at the request of U.S. Probation Office's Gregory F. Arriola in order for Blas to explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

Colin Thompson is the court-appointed counsel for Blas. An initial appearance/revocation hearing was set yesterday afternoon for Blas.

According to Arriola, Blas was drunk during the assault that happened last June 10 and was also intoxicated when he (Arriola) visited him at a house in Chalan Kanoa last June 11.

Blas is a registered sex offender and has previous convictions in the U.S. District Court and Superior Court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Military to conduct render safe procedure on unexploded ordnance

ASAN, Guam—Airmen from the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit will conduct a render-safe procedure on unexploded ordnance from World War II on June 18 along Route 3 in Dededo, at 7:20pm.

The Guam Police Department is restricting access to the area, which may cause traffic delays. Residents within the vicinity may hear a loud noise due to the disposal of the unexploded ordnance, technically called UXO. ***(PR)***

Eucon's Wei is TRACS commissioner

The president and founder of Eucon University on Saipan, Dr. H. Christian Wei, has been elected to serve as an accreditation commissioner of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.

Wei, who earned his doctorate from Bob Jones University, will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021.

TRACS president Dr. Timothy W. Eaton announced the results of the election of TRACS commissioners.

The TRACS Accreditation Commission is composed of 18 members and includes 13 institutional representatives, two faculty representatives, and three public representatives, each serving three-year terms. The commission employs a president who also serves on the commission and executes its policies.

TRACS accreditation commissioners represent over 500 years of professional experience in higher education, military service, and business. They hold 46 graduate degrees from accredited institutions across America and have served an average of 8.6 years on the commission.

Aside from Wei, the other newly elected commissioners include:

■ Rev. Michael J. Cavanaugh (Th.M., Bakke Graduate University) is president of Elim Bible Institute and College, New York.

■ Dr. James L. Flanagan (Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) is president of Luther Rice College and Seminary, Georgia.

■ Dr. Larry D. Hunt (D.Min., Nazarene Theological Seminary) is a public representative who is a retired minister and former college president living in San Antonio, Texas.

■ Dr. David R. Nicholas (Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary) is president of Shasta Bible College and Graduate School, California.

■ Dr. Gary M. Weier (Ph.D., Purdue University) is provost of Bob Jones University, South Carolina.

TRACS is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education as a national institutional accrediting agency for Christian postsecondary institutions that offer certificates, diplomas, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including distance learning. ***(PR)***

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AP Explains: War games between South Korea and US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump promised to end "war games" with South Korea, calling them provocative, after meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un earlier this week. His announcement appeared to catch both South Korea and the Pentagon by surprise. A brief explanation of the military exercises:

In this March 12, 2016, file photo, Marines of the U.S., left, and South Korea wearing blue headbands on their helmets, take positions after landing on a beach during the joint military combined amphibious exercise, called Ssangyong, part of the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle military exercises, in Pohang, South Korea. AP

THE DRILLS

The U.S. and South Korea hold major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea.

The spring maneuvers—actually two overlapping exercises called Key Resolve and Foal Eagle—include live-fire drills with tanks, aircraft and warships. About 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops usually take part. The drills typically begin in March but were delayed until April this year to encourage North Korean participation in the South Korean Winter Olympics.

The summer exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, consists mainly of computer simulations to hone joint decision-making and planning. Some 17,500 American and 50,000 South Korean troops participated last year. The drill, held since the 1970s, usually takes place in August. Trump's pledge has thrown its fate into question this year.

THEIR PURPOSE

A major goal is to ensure that the two militaries can work together smoothly and seamlessly in a sudden crisis, from top commanders to troops in the field. Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official, calls the joint drills and the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea the core of the alliance between the two countries. He says the American military presence "wouldn't mean much if the militaries don't practice through joint drills."

TRUMP'S WORDS

"We will be stopping the war games, which will save us a tremendous amount of money, unless and until we see the future negotiation is not going along like it should," Trump told reporters after his meeting Tuesday with Kim in Singapore. "But we'll be saving a tremendous amount of money. Plus, I think it's very provocative."

PROVOCATIVE?

Depends on your point of view. North Korea portrays the exercises as rehearsals for an invasion of its country. The U.S. and South Korea, at least until Trump's statement, have said the drills are purely defensive, to be ready at a moment's notice if the North were to attack the South. The U.S. has sent B-1B aircraft from an Air Force base in Guam on bombing runs over South Korean ranges, sometimes as a show of force after North Korean missile tests. The U.S. and its allies routinely call the missile tests "provocations."

In 2016, North Korea reacted angrily after South Korean media reported that the allies were planning to include training for a "beheading operation" aimed at removing Kim Jong Un and toppling his government in the event of war in that year's Key Resolve-Foal Eagle exercises.

The North Korean army's Supreme Command issued a statement saying a decapitation plan would be the "height of hostile acts" and that the North's weaponry is "ready to open fire." Washington and Seoul did not say outright that their troops would be training for decapitation strikes.

CHINA

The biggest victor if the U.S. were to halt joint exercises with South Korea may be China. The Chinese military is expanding its reach into the Pacific and sees the U.S. as a rival in waters it considers its own. China has long called for a halt to both North Korean missile tests and U.S.-South Korean military drills as a precursor to talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

PAGAN

From Page 1

highly dependent as it is on the weather. That has made urgent the request of Northern Islands residents to have the air strip on Pagan rebuilt.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, a plan to clear the runway on Pagan is in the pipeline. "We have been working with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Federal Aviation Administration about that. In the next couple of weeks, I should be holding a meeting with CPA to ask an update on that project up north regarding the runway," he said.

Torres said his office has been meeting with the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and their priority is establishing reliable transportation between Saipan and Pagan.

"It's hard up north especially with the bad weather in September and October, that is why it's very difficult to have a vessel," he said.

The CNMI government's next option is to develop an airport there. However, Torres acknowledges that the Pagan runway has to at least be cleared to obtain Federal Aviation Administration approval.

Torres is very much aware of the challenges that face Pagan. He has been on trips to the island starting when he was a child.

"My dad has been going there in the mid-'70s and encourages us boys in the family to go up north. Now I want to bring my kids and the first lady sometime in our lives as I would like us to spend one whole summer there because it is something that our children will enjoy and must experience," he said.

"We want to preserve Pagan… I actually encourage legislators to go up north to experience the islands first-hand—not to just land on it but walk around, see the natural beauty and many resources of the island so that they will know exactly what they are fighting for," he added.

An agricultural homestead is being finalized as a means for Pagan's economic development.

"I know that the Department of Public Lands sent a surveyor down there last year and early this year. We want to establish a settlement, whether agricultural homestead or homestead program, but between the two, agricultural is easy to do at this point," Torres said.

"It's a beautiful island and I love it up there. I am hoping to have that offered to the community," he added.

The U.S. Department of Defense eyes Pagan as a venue for U.S. military training and reports claim that the Pentagon wants to use the island for target practice.

"When the military came and showed interest, I told them it's not just an island for you to do training. This island is sentimental to us. It's not just 'let's bomb it'…it's definitely more than that because it's about preserving it for our future, for the new generation," Torres said.

"The issue is, how can we make it work? If the military is coming, how can we still sustain the beauty of the island and we have to determine what kind of military training is acceptable to the island…We are not saying we don't want military here. What we are saying is, what kind of training is acceptable for the community? So far, the proposed training style is not acceptable," Torres added.

Torres is aware of the vulnerability of the Northern Islands in terms of the presence of illegal fishing by both U.S. and foreign vessels. That's why he supports the idea of establishing a sanctuary in the Northern Islands, similar to the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

"We need enforcement and, right now, we don't have the resources to go after those illegal fishing vessels that are coming in. The U.S. Coast Guard's priority is provide safety as when they respond to distressed vessels or if someone is drowning," he said.

"We really want to have our own vessel that can monitor those vessels and I hope that someday we will have the resources to do that. … Maintaining a vessel in that capacity such as maintaining the crew, insurance, and gas cost a lot. We are also looking at our crew's safety once we get on board on those illegal fishing vessels. These are the issues that we are addressing now," he added.

BOMBS

From Page 1

en 150-lb World War II Japanese naval land bombs were secured at 12:30pm yesterday and relocated to the bomb pit in Marpi.

The bombs were unearthed as Saipan International Group Ltd. started the construction of its Saipan Globe Hotel, which will reportedly be made up of 438 hotel rooms and villas at the 4.1-hectare beachfront property.

In December 2017, the Commonwealth Development Authority granted Saipan International Group Ltd. a qualifying certificate that would allow it to avail of $10 million tax breaks during its construction and operational phases.

COP

From Page 1

concentration of 0.08 percent or more, driving while under the influence of alcohol, and two counts of fleeing the scene of an accident.

The three other charges filed against Kwon are reckless driving causing bodily injury, failure to have a car insurance while driving on a public highway, and failure to have car insurance at hand while driving on a public highway.

Hodson asserted that the court should dismiss the four charges on the grounds that the imposition of two "fleeing the scene" charges, and a charge of "driving while under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more" and "driving while under the influence of alcohol" are "multiplicitous" and violate constitutional prohibitions on double jeopardy.

Hodson said the government has charged Kwon with two violations of the same statute, 9 CMC Section 6101, alleging that he violated this statute by failing to stop at the scene of the accident, and, further, by failing to render reasonable assistance to an injured person.

The defense counsel said the government has similarly charged Kwon with driving under the influence with a BAC of 0.08 percent or more and with driving under the influence of the alcohol.

She pointed out that there is no indication in the statute that the Legislature intended to impose multiple felony penalties for the same offense of failing to stop.

Hodson said that, in count four, Kwon is alleged to have failed to stop at the scene of the accident when he drove his vehicle into a tree, injuring his passenger, Deedra Santos.

Hodson said that, in count five, Kwon is alleged to have failed to provide reasonable assistance to an injured person, when he drove his vehicle into a tree causing injury to Santos and failed to provide reasonable medical assistance.

The lawyer said the two charges arise from the single event of Kwon driving his vehicle into the tree and leaving the scene.

She said Kwon allegedly fled the scene, leaving behind an injured person; at the same time, he also allegedly failed to render reasonable assistance by fleeing the scene.

"There is a clear unitary relationship between these two charges, arising from a single, ongoing event," Hodson said.

Hodson said the Legislature did not intend to impose multiple sanctions for the single offense of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The lawyer said in order to ensure Kwon's constitutional right to be free from the threat of multiple criminal punishments, the court should dismiss the "multiplicitous" charges.

The bench trial of Kwon will be on July 30, 2018, before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Kwon has filed a separate motion to compel the government to disclose all documents within its possession or control that he had asked for.

In that motion, Hodson disclosed that documents related to the Department of Public Safety's internal affairs investigation into the case of Kwon are allegedly missing.

Police said that Kwon was driving his Nissan car on July 22, 2017, when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree, causing serious injuries to Santos near the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. When the officers responded at the scene, Kwon was not at the scene, but the injured Santos was there.

Kwon was an off-duty DUI officer for DPS at the time of the accident. He is currently assigned with the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau.

BILL

From Page 2

roads; Tinian DPS new hires; and the procurement of several vehicles for the Tinian Department of Public Works, the Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Tinian Department of Finance, among many others.

Another $650,000 is paid to Docomo Pacific for including Rota in their new fiber optic cable connection while $165,000 is paid for including Tinian.

It also earmarked $700,000 for the rehabilitation and improvement of the Sugar Dock on Saipan, while $1.08 million is for the architectural and engineering design and construction of a solid waste transfer station at the southern part of Saipan.

"I want to thank the House and Senate conferees for their swift deliberation and collaboration to come up with a compromise version. I also want to thank the members of the Legislature who voted to pass the final version of the bill," said Demapan in a statement to *Saipan Tribune.*

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MVA bolsters Busan flights with travel agent tour

In support of daily flights by Jeju Air from Busan, Korea, to Saipan, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently hosted an in-depth familiarization tour to acquaint seven leading Busan area travel agents with the destination.

"The aim of the 2018 Marianas Busan Study FAM Tour was to equip travel agents with firsthand information and experiences so they can better promote the Marianas' beautiful natural assets, convenient hotel facilities, exciting leisure activities and associated tour packages for Korean travelers," said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo. "The participants shared that they were very satisfied with the tour itinerary and agreed it will stimulate the development of various tour packages. On a personal note, they also said they would like to visit Saipan again, and that is a indicator of the true success of the tour."

From May 25 to May 29, the group visited major hotels, conducting site inspections and experiencing hotel restaurants and other facilities.

The group also visited scenic spots, including Bird Island, Banzai Cliff, Korean Memorial and Managaha.

Participants experienced the Joyful Dinner Show at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and visited the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on the last day of the festival for an opportunity to experience indigenous culture.

Travel agents from Busan, Korea, stop at Bird Islands Lookout and other scenic spots on May 27, 2018, as part of their familiarization tour of Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. (MVA)

Travel agents from Busan, Korea, conduct a site inspection of Hyatt Regency Saipan on May 27, 2018, as part of their familiarization tour of Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. Other hotels inspected included Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Pacific Palm Resort, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, and Kensington Hotel Saipan

Travel agents from Busan, Korea, visit the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 26, 2018, as part of their familiarization tour of Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. (MVA)

On the second day, there was snorkeling on Managaha, an island tour, and a sunset cruise. In addition, participants visited Coral Ocean Golf Resort and Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

The tour was also supported by several MVA members. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan provided complimentary accommodation for two nights including breakfast, and Hyatt Regency Saipan did the same, as well as providing a Sunday brunch. PIC Saipan enabled an inspection of its waterpark, and Saipan World Resort provided property inspection with lunch at Myunga, the Korean restaurant. Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort supported an inspection and lunch at The Grill, and the Kensington Hotel Saipan room inspection came with dinner at Loria. DFS Saipan included a discount coupon for participants with its property inspection. ***(MVA)***

Discrimination suit vs Imperial Pacific dismissed

The federal court dismissed with prejudice on Friday the discrimination lawsuit filed against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC by its former table games supervisor.

Dismissal with prejudice means Dennis Campbell can no longer re-file his lawsuit against Imperial Pacific.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the lawsuit but retained jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing the terms of the settlement.

Campbell and Imperial Pacific have requested the court to dismiss the matter as they have reached a settlement.

The terms and conditions of the settlement deal were not disclosed.

Campbell, through Jeanne Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., sued Imperial Pacific for violation of the American with Disabilities Act.

Campbell alleged that he has a physical disability and that the company did not act on his complaint of having difficulty standing and walking for long periods of time.

He asked the court to hold Imperial Pacific liable to pay him back pay plus interest, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Imperial Pacific has denied the allegation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Scheduled power interruptions set

There will be a scheduled power interruptions on June 20, 21, 22, and 23

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018, the outage from 7am to 12pm will occur in Gualo Rai and will affect Gualo Rai Road and Gualo Rai Drive. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

On Thursday, June 21, the outage will affect Susupe from 7am to 12pm. It will cover the IT&E building and Texas Road. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

That same day, June 21, there will be a power outage in Susupe and Oleai from 1pm to 5pm. It will affect Bakke Street and Maas Lane. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

On Friday, June 22, from 7am to 12pm, the outage will affect Susupe and Chalan Kanoa. It will cover Shirley's Restaurant and Chalan Kanoa Drive. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

The next day, June 23, the outage will occur in Tanapag, from 5am to 10am, affecting San Roque and As Matuis. All water wells in San Roque and As Matuis will be affected. All lift stations in San Roque and As Matuis will also be affected.

That same day, June 23, from 1pm to 5pm, the power outage will occur in Oleai. The Saipan Mayor's Office will be affected. All water wells and wastewater lift stations in San Roque and As Matuis will be affected.

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contractor to safely replace wood poles with concrete poles. The project tasks are part of CUC's ongoing Hazard Mitigation Project that focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 696 pole replacements have been made by CUC and its contractor.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Scheduled water service outage on Thursday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, June 21, from 8am to 5pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in As Terlaje, Beach Road, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Rasmu Lane (El Tom), Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, and west side areas of As Lito (Faha Place, Bayak Drive and Aplok Drive).

CUC's 1-million-gallon water tank project contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be connecting a new bypass system to the existing transmission main at the Isley Booster I pump station along Continental Drive.

As a result of the new connection, the wells will be able to pump directly to the tank at the Northern Marianas College without the use of the existing booster pump station, resulting in a more reliable water system. Regular water service will resume soon after.

This is an ongoing project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesComoration/). ***(CUC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NMDC meeting today

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. will be holding a general membership meeting today, June 19, 2018, at the Carolinian Utt. The meeting will begin promptly at 6pm and the topic for discussion will be on Senate Bill 20-35 which is to amend 1 CMC subsection 2806(c) to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 35 years for a total 75 years; to authorize existing public land leases to be amended to extend the existing lease term up to 75 years; and for other purposes. ***(PR)***

5 reasons to participate in 3rd Annual MIFSF

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 3rd Annual Marianas Island Fishing and Seafood Festival will kick off this weekend, June 23-24, at the Garapan Fishing Base, featuring amazing arts, fishing, and environmental information and new entertainment offerings.

The festival, intended to lead to the 2018 Liberation Day Festival hosted by the Saipan Mayor's Office, is a seaside event for all those seeking good food, fun, and a chance to learn more about our islands' fisheries.

This year the CNMI Governor's Office is getting behind the festival to promote sustainable fisheries in the Marianas.

The festival will encompass the entire Garapan Fishing Base. It will only be here for the weekend, so here are a few reasons why you should give the Marianas Islands Fishing and Seafood Festival a visit on June 23-24.

It's free

Entry to the festival is free to the public. Artists and vendors do not have to pay a fee so they can offer the best prices to you. Games, boat rides, jumping house and a fishing camp are all free.

It's packed with food

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is known for a lot of things. One of them is its seafood culture. You can be sure to find your favorite dishes in one of the food tents set up at the festival.

There will also be the fish cook-off on Sunday that will provide an opportunity to savor Marianas delicacies like you have never tasted before. The entries will be prepared by amateur and professional chefs who know a thing or two about how to filet a fish.

It's a chance to support local artists

If there's an ocean of places to eat, there's even more to shop for handmade craft. You can find wooden sculptures, paintings, handmade necklaces, and more.

The mission of the Marianas Islands Fishing and Seafood Festival is the restoration of the CNMI's indigenous culture, arts, and fisheries. The artist booths will be packed with artworks not found elsewhere on the island, being that there are limited public events for local artists to display their craft.

It's educational

The festival features a wide variety of conservationists who will be distributing materials and letting people know about ways we can conserve resources on land, sea and air. The environment is a clear winner at this festival and there will be lots of information and free giveaways. In attendance will be representatives from Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and other conservation entities.

The festival will also feature seafood as a healthy nutrition and Division of Public Health will be on hand to provide information on health and also conduct free health checks.

It's child-friendly

Just because little kids get in free doesn't mean there's nothing for them to do. There are fun games and activities to get your children involved in the fun.

The kids will enjoy the bounce house, games and face painting but there's even more for them to do than that. Every game has a variety of prizes that will be given away. So bring a bag to take home lots of goodies.

If all else fails, they'll love getting their hands on all sorts of wacky sea critters in the interactive touch display. That's where they can get up close and personal with a huge variety of fish and crustaceans from around the Marianas.

The Saipan International Fishing Tournament registration will be on Friday, June 22, and the fishing derby is from 6pm Friday to 5pm Saturday, June 28. There are five categories of fishing: *talaya*, spearfishing, deep bottom, trolling, inner-reef/shore casting and first, second, and third prizes will be given in each category with a total of $5,000 in prizes. You can enter for as many categories as you like.

The Cooking Competition is on Sunday June 24, 2018, from 11am to 3pm in three categories: *poki*, *kelaguen*, and open category (any style).

Our Pacific Ocean Media Award launched for the Pacific islands

"Our Pacific Ocean Media Award" was launched in commemoration of World Ocean Day on June 8 to both recognize and encourage Pacific island journalists to highlight the Pacific Ocean, the largest resource of the Pacific island region.

The health and wellbeing of the Pacific Ocean is under threat from the challenges brought about by marine debris and plastic, climate change, and overfishing, which endanger this valuable resource.

"Through this award we hope to encourage our Pacific island journalists to tell our Pacific stories about our ocean," according to a statement from Pacific Community, or SPC. "Now under threat from so many environment issues, we must all work together to make sure we protect and conserve our ocean. Highlighting both the positive and negative stories will help ensure our ocean is a priority for us all."

The award to commemorate the work of Pacific island journalists is a partnership between SPC, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Pacific Island News Association, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

It calls for Pacific island journalists to submit stories under the categories of print, radio or television, with a fourth category open for journalism students. The judges will also give a best overall prize, which will be decided between the winners of the four categories. Winning submissions from each category will be awarded $600.

The underlying theme for all entries submitted is our ocean. These stories can be science-based, showcasing community projects and, or positive actions to conserve the Pacific Ocean or her resources. Stories can also be about problems caused by bad practices or about ocean champions—people doing positive things for our ocean. The wide range of angles and possibilities is welcome, provided all submissions are about the Pacific Ocean.

Our Pacific Ocean Media Award is open for Pacific island media workers who reside and work in the Pacific islands, noting submissions can be in English, French, or national languages with the English or French translation. Submissions must have been published or broadcast between Oct. 3, 2017, and Oct. 3, 2018, with the award closing on Oct. 5, 2018. Winners will be announced on the International Day of Climate Action on Oct. 24, 2018.

There is a maximum of three entries per person. A judging panel of four will check against journalism skill, accuracy, proficiency in the media genre, innovation and creativity to maintain interest. ***(SPC)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 04, 2018; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp/index.php/division-of-public-health/women-infants-and-children-program

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 13, 2018.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

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/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Cultural, academic activities at Project PROA camp

In addition to taking part in fun and cultural activities, participants of this year's Project PROA summer camp will receive an opportunity to build their English and math skills to help better prepare for college.

The Project PROA summer camp is a three-week program that aims to prepare students who plan on attending the Northern Marianas College for college success and to provide them with the opportunity to strengthen their ties to their cultural heritage with various activities and field trips.

Participants of the Project PROA summer camp program will engage in morning academic sessions provided by the Community Development Institute and cultural activities in the afternoon with organizations such as 500 Sails, Carolinian Affairs Office, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, American Memorial Park, and NMC's Cooperative Research Extension & Education Services.

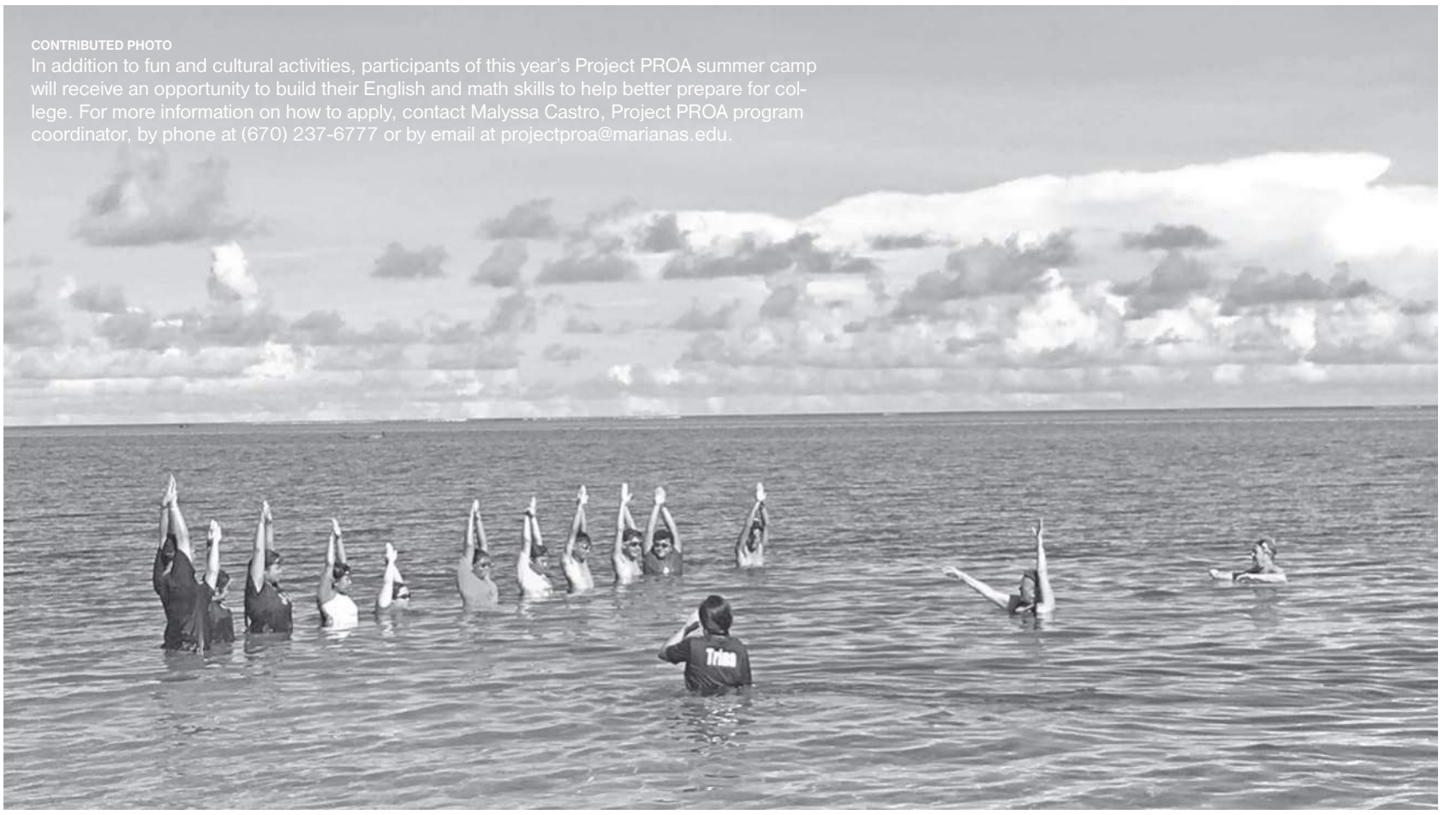
To qualify for the camp, participants must be a high school junior, senior, or recent high school graduate and self-identify as Chamorro and/or Carolinian, per grant requirements. Interested individuals must be program eligible to participate.

Participation is free with lunch and snacks provided as well.

Seats will be on a first-come, first-serve basis so interested students are encouraged submit their application or visit the PROA Center in Building G at the NMC Saipan As Terlaje campus, between 8am and 5pm.

Application forms are available online at www.marianas.edu/projectproa.php or at Project PROA in Room G1 and must be submitted no later than Friday, June 22, at 4pm. Orientation will be held on Friday, July 6, from 9am to 12pm in NMC's As Terlaje campus on Saipan.

For more information, contact Malyssa Castro, Project PROA program coordinator, by phone at (670) 237-6777 or by email atprojectproa@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In addition to fun and cultural activities, participants of this year's Project PROA summer camp will receive an opportunity to build their English and math skills to help better prepare for college. For more information on how to apply, contact Malyssa Castro, Project PROA program coordinator, by phone at (670) 237-6777 or by email at projectproa@marianas.edu.

Calling all new and returning ayuyus

It's time to register for the next school year.

Kagman High School asks that registration forms are submitted by July 2 for optimal scheduling and placement. Registration forms submitted after July 2 will be accepted, but note that elective course availability will depend on early submission.

Sometimes parents ask why do we have to submit this every year? It is very important for the schools to be able to contact parents and guardians. Updated registration forms give schools the information we need to stay connected.

Additionally, it is the law that students must have valid health certificates and insurance while attending public school. These certificates help us stay in compliance with public laws intended to keep students safe.

All returning students need only to submit:

■ Completed registration form (updated phone numbers and map are key)

■ Health certificate (must be valid. this is renewed every year)

■ Health insurance (must be valid)

All new enrollment:

■ Completed registration form

■ Health Certificate (must be valid. This is renewed every year)

■ Health insurance (must be valid)

■ Birth certificate

Transcript (if transferring from another high school)

■ Guardianship or power of attorney (if applicable)

Orientation schedule:

■ Monday, Aug. 13, 1pm orientation for sophomores and juniors

■ Tuesday, Aug. 14, 10am orientation for freshmen

■ Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1pm orientation for seniors

Orientation for seniors and freshmen with their parents is required. We will share vital information for your transition this year. ***(PR)***

Native speakers of Micronesian languages sought

On July 20 to 31, Dr. Thomas Stolz of the University of Bremen in Germany will be visiting Saipan to conduct a study on how world languages use the English verb "belong."

Stolz is seeking the help of the community and is in need of native speakers of all the Micronesian languages.

The participants for this study must be a native speaker of one of the following languages: Chamorro, Carolinian, Palauan, Chukeese, Korsrae, Pohnpeian, Karibati, Yapese, and Marshalese.

There are two parts to the study and each part will take about an hour.

For Part 1, participants will be asked to translate a short story (one page) in English into a native language. The story should be translated using natural language with no need to reproduce the story in English word-by-word.

The second part is the speaking portion. There will be a questionnaire to be translated from English into a native language. For this segment the speakers will be filmed/recorded; however, if the speaker does not want to be recorded and/or filmed, they can choose not to be.

Stolz is interested in the ways and means in which languages express notions of possession (having, owning, possessing and belonging) in other parts of the world that he believes have not been studied sufficiently. Stolz wants to involve as many languages as possible from outside Europe to rectify the image linguists tend to have of the system of possession in human languages.

To be a participant in this study, contact the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

WORKING GROUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board of Education vice chair and IT&E executive Janice A. Tenorio and Board of Education chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada are joined by Vicky Villagomez, chief of the Office of Budget and Management last Thursday during a continuing working session. The working session group was established last month.

Constitutional amendment eyed to 'clarify' homestead improvements

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Natural Resources wants the CNMI Constitution to show that the Department of Public Lands is authorized to install water, power, and sewage in homesteads.

During a meeting at the House speaker's conference room on Capital Hill, the committee amended Rep. Alice Igitol's (R-Saipan) House Legislative Initiative 20-01 to include the installation of water, power, and sewage as necessary developments on a homestead lot.

H.L.I. 20-01 primarily seeks to distribute every year the interest accrued from the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund to those of Northern Marianas descent.

Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), who championed the insertion of the utilities amendment, said he was prompted to do so because, according to a previous court ruling, "homestead improvements" did not include the installation of power, water, and sewage.

According to law, DPL collects revenue from the lease of public lands. Minus the amount it needs for administrative expenses, what's left would be remitted to MPLT for investment. A disagreement between the two agencies brought them to court, where it was ruled that homestead improvements do not encompass power, water, and sewage.

According to Igitol, the amendment was based on comments during their public hearing last Tuesday, where only 13 people attended.

"[We are] amending H.L.I. 20-01 to allow MPLT to have their own regulations over the NMD benefits," said Igitol, adding that the new provision was a separate amendment from Aldan's.

"We will clear everything by Wednesday," she said.

According to Igitol, the committee is scheduled to confer on the matter once more on Wednesday.

Members of the 34th Guam Legislature, U.S. Coast Guard, Naval Base Guam, Guam Air National Guard, and Port Authority of Guam have their picture taken after the Veterans Commemoration Flag-Raising Ceremony at the Guam Congress building yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flag-raising rites honor Guam ports veterans

HAGATNA, Guam—Under bright and clear skies, a flag-raising ceremony was held at the Guam Congress building yesterday, honoring veterans from the Port Authority of Guam. Those in attendance included members from the 34th Guam Legislature, U.S. Coast Guard, Naval Base Guam, Guam Air National Guard, and Port.

The guest speaker for the event was assistant Port Police Chief Col. Christopher A. Roberto.

"Be it their own way to travel the world, learn new skills, make a new life for themselves and their families or out of family tradition, they have all raised their right hand and swore allegiance to the flag as members of the world's strongest military to preserve and protect the freedoms that we all enjoy today," said Roberto, who is also a master sergeant with the Guam Air National Guard.

The inaugural Veterans Commemoration Flag-Raising Ceremony was held in November last year and is held every month to recognize veterans and those currently serving in the military. The next flag-raising ceremony is slated for Monday, July 9, 2018. ***(PR)***

A flag-raising ceremony is held at the Guam Congress building, honoring veterans from the Port Authority of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DYS completes mental health first aid

With the growing need to address mental healthcare in the Commonwealth, the Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, with the coordination of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Community Guidance Center, recently certified 17 of its the personnel for mental health first aid.

DYS administrator Vivian Sablan said that, as employees of a youth service agency, it is vital to build on knowledge and skills as a tool to effectively respond in crisis interventions, especially when addressing mental health needs of youth and families.

"We are very grateful for this opportunity that was extended to DCCA-DYS and other partner agencies. The training highlights the ongoing need to address mental health needs as soon as we encounter the issue with our youth. As the division is tasked with promoting the wellbeing of children, youth, families, and the community as a whole, we are better prepared as first responders to the stresses that families and children face and can better improve mental health outcomes," Sablan said.

Expressing his sentiments on the growing awareness of mental healthcare, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stated that promoting positive youth development requires active participation across all stakeholders.

"As our community continues to heal and grow, the need for comprehensive and coordinated mental health care is important. Even with the recovery center in place, we are taking extra steps to look at building more sustainable systems of care and to encourage others to take part in supporting not just the physical needs of our children and community, but their overall mental health. I thank DYS for taking this step forward and commend CGC for providing the necessary training," Torres said.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert H. Hunter noted that, through community partnerships such as the Community Guidance Center Systems of Care, DYS strengthens their capacity to address child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and other social issues.

"DYS continues to be instrumental in addressing several social issues, but we cannot do it alone and that's why leveraging our partnerships help provide rehabilitative care to our most vulnerable. A big part of program is family education and youth enhancement as a step toward prevention and empowerment. It is from this standpoint that we can better facilitate our services from child protection, shelter services, foster care, juvenile probation, parent education, and youth services and outreach. From active parenting to mental health first aid, this training is one of several ways we hope to reach more of our community members," Hunter said.

Mental health first aid aims to provide training to initial help to young people experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis and substance abuse disorders. The training highlighted discussions on the prevalence of mental health issues, the first aider role, spectrum of interventions, risk factors for developing a mental health disorder and taking care of the first aider.

For more information on DYS, call 664-2550/2551 or you may contact the Parent HelpLine at 287-2847. ***(PR)***

Docomo Pacific donates over $170K to PSS libraries

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific has launched the second phase of its five-year One Marianas initiative by donating over $170,000 to the purchase of laptops for all 21 public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Last Friday, Docomo Pacific's team crashed the Public School System's Teacher Development workshop with a wonderful surprise—a donation of $178,500 to be used to purchase brand new laptops for the libraries of CNMI public schools.

According to Docomo Pacific chief executive officer Rod Boss, the donation will benefit students in the CNMI.

"We presented a check to PSS for the purchase of computers for the school system of the CNMI [because] we're a technology company and, for us, the kind of services we provide is very personal. It's something that everyone has with them, it's something they use to communicate and we feel like what we do has the ability to change people's lives and we give a lot of thought on how we can affect the most [number of] people and be able to give a little back to our communities and this is the way we've chosen to do this," he said.

Dino Manning, vice president of Docomo Pacific and general manager of Docomo Pacific CNMI, explained that the donation is only a phase of a greater scheme of giving back to the CNMI that they have decided to call the "One Marianas" initiative.

"We call this the 'One Marianas' initiative and we focused on three areas and the three areas we focused on was education, public safety, and health. What we've come to realize and what we all agreed upon and collaborated with our community leaders and other business partners is that these areas are fundamental to the overall development of our community and economic development of our community. The idea is to keep kids healthy, keep our community safe, and educate our community," he said.

Manning said the initiative came to life after their Atisa cable was installed and the support of the community was so overwhelming that Docomo decided they wanted to show their appreciation through a strategic plan.

"We got a lot of overwhelming support from the community and this is our way of giving back," he said.

Bonnie Pangelinan, PSS associate commissioner for student and support services, said that PSS libraries have changed so much over the years and are now collaborative places where students come to learn and do research.

"What a great place to funnel this need…with the goal of providing equitable access to learning environments such as our library, with the goal of increasing the digital tools that they have…so that not just our students…are able to collaborate and access education. We decided it was the perfect place," she said.

"We are beginning a wonderful…partnership with Docomo Pacific that benefits our entire community and this is huge…we are very grateful to Docomo for extending a hand," she added.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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...and what do you think about this new treaty?
Does this mean we finally get some food?
MILLIONS OF STARVING N. KOREANS
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Recognizing the value of experience

By PETER SMITH
The Baltimore Sun

Peter Smith, Ph.D., is the Orkand Endowed Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education at University of Maryland University College. His latest book is Free-Range Learning in the Digital Age: The Emerging Revolution in College, Career, and Education.

Ever since the first college campus was created, its program of studies, modes of instruction and standards have, one way or the other, been controlled by the college and its faculty. Campuses were, relatively speaking, intellectually pristine, information-rich enclaves, separated from the rest of the information-poor world.

Fast forward to the beginning of the community college movement and the passage of the GI Bill in late-1940s America. Suddenly, colleges were not only for the elite, but they had overtly economic—as well as intellectual—purposes. Over the last 70 years, there have been multiple changes in post-secondary education and the employment landscape. The basic model, however, that a degree or certificate from a college signals that the individual is intellectually prepared and ready to work, has remained dominant.

Today, there is a revolution underway, and the credibility of even those core signaling devices is under assault from forces inside and outside the academy. At the heart of this revolution lie two realities, one very old and the other brand new. First, the old: As long as there has been folklore in America, we have known that life herself is a magnificent teacher. Think of phrases such as "live and learn", "the school of hard knocks and "older, but wiser."

Maryland proposal for free community college follows national trend. But results aren't clear.

Even when Canadian researcher Allen Tough proved that the average adult spends about 12 hours a week learning purposefully in their daily life, most colleges and employers, as well as adult learners, continued to ignore the value of that learning. This "learning discrimination" placed a determinative value on where and when you learned something, not how well you knew a topic and could apply the knowledge. So, colleges "won," and personal learning "lost." As a result, this "personal"—or experiential—learning, despite it constituting well more than half of the learning we do in a lifetime, has been largely ignored by colleges and employers.

The new reality is the technological capacity that is changing the face of the world, including the world of higher education and employment. Now, the entire curriculum of MIT, among other colleges, is available online, for free. Job requirements can be searched and dis-

See RECOGNIZING on Next Page

Why are Americans so down in this economy?

By CONOR SEN and NOAH SMITH
BLOOMBERG NEWS

The U.S. economy is growing, unemployment has reached lows not seen in almost two decades, wages are starting to rise and inflation is subdued. Yet lots of Americans say they're not particularly happy or satisfied with their lives. Bloomberg Opinion columnists Conor Sen and Noah Smith met online recently to discuss the state of Americans' personal well-being.

Noah Smith: How are Americans doing, overall? Earlier this year, consumer confidence hit a 17-year high. Recent numbers show that confidence cooling off a bit, but people are still very optimistic about the economy.

But perhaps paradoxically, Americans don't report feeling very happy overall. A recent study by Gallup and health-information service Sharecare, with a huge sample size, found large drops across a variety of measures of well-being between 2016 and 2017. People are reporting increased depression, more physical pain and increased worry.

And when we look at behavioral measures—which economists naturally like to look at—we see more troubling signs. Suicide data only run through 2016, but it's at or near all-time highs. Americans are having fewer kids, too. Is it fair to say that the good economy just isn't making Americans happy?

Conor Sen: This seems like the right time to be having this conversation. A little more than a week after the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the U.S. unemployment rate had matched a multidecade low, the Centers for Disease Control released data showing a broad-based increase in suicide rates since 1999. Opioid use has skyrocketed this decade and drugs like fentanyl are responsible for a growing number of American deaths.

I've got a couple theories for what's going on. The first is that during the past decade culture has exalted the technology industry, its visionary leaders and disruption as an ethos more generally. But the flip side of disruption is anxiety for those who are being disrupted or left behind.

What's interesting is it's not clear in the data how much disruption is actually occurring. One popular theory of the labor market this decade is that technology is leading to more workers leaving traditional employment and being a part of an informal gig economy. But data just released show that if anything, the gig economy may have shrunk since 2005. Another theory is that Amazon and e-commerce are destroying brick-and-mortar retail, but Adam Ozimek of Moody's recently wrote a piece showing that retail employment has been trending tightly with population growth at the geographic level, suggesting no major change there. For all the talk about ride-sharing and ride-hailing services disrupting automobile ownership, light truck and SUV sales are at record highs. Homeownership is beginning to recover. But even if disruption so far has been more of a psychological phenomenon than one visible in the data, it's something people feel and it makes them anxious about the future.

The other theory comes from a friend recounting a book passage where a group of kindergartners were watching the Disney move "Dumbo." All of the kids in the class, even the bullies, were rooting against Dumbo's tormenters. Everyone in the class related with the persecuted Dumbo.

Ever since the election of President Barack Obama in 2008, America no longer has a demographic majority that can assert itself in all aspects of society. And that's making everyone anxious, with everyone feeling that their status and rights have become threatened. And we don't know how long this is likely to last.

NS: Interesting theories! I think you're absolutely right that technology is not (yet) the threat to our livelihoods that many people worry about. An alternative hypothesis—supported by some research—is that social media is making people unhappy. Our cell phones are a seductive temptation, almost like an addictive drug—and the more time we spend glued to our screens, the less time we have for face-to-face interaction. On top of that, Facebook makes people envious of their friends, Twitter is just constant political fighting, and the ever-present threat of callout culture probably doesn't help either.

I think your second theory is more worrisome. Stated bluntly, it's the idea that the disappearance of the white supermajority is sending the U.S. into an ethnic conflict that won't resolve itself in our lifetimes. There's good evidence that the threat of losing white demographic supremacy was a big reason people voted for Donald Trump—and of course, Trump is driving Democratic voters up the wall, so everyone gets to share in the unhappiness. I think that in the long run, very high rates of interracial marriage—about 40 percent for U.S.-born Hispanics and Asians—will reduce this feeling of division, and generational change will probably help as well. But what else can we do to allay the threat of ethic division, besides wait for the storm to pass?

NS: I'd say it's two parts. First, there's some amount of "waiting for the storm to pass" involved, but the second part is once you see signs of it abating, to step up and take action to stand up for the values you believe in. In the mid-2000s in the aftermath of 9/11 the public was anxious about terrorism, getting on airplanes and white powder being mailed in envelopes. The program "24" was one of the most popular shows on television. But then things changed, which may be why Rudy Giuliani's 9/11-centric presidential campaign fell flat in 2008. Obama's more dovish stand on foreign policy carried the day in the 2008 Democratic presidential race over Hillary Clinton's more hawkish stance. In part I think it was the financial crisis and new issues that were given a sense of urgency. For a time in the early 2010s the non-interventionist/libertarian worldview of Kentucky

See AMERICANS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why I support Senate Bill 20-35

By ALICE S. IGITOL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Senate Bill 20-35 intends to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus and extension up to 15 years for a total of 55 years.

The properties where the existing hotels are built are private and public lands. The public land leases are to expire within two to three years, while the private lands still have 13 to 15 years' lease remaining.

Many of the hotel owners are reluctant to negotiate with the Department of Public Land for the renewal of their land leases because they are not certain of the renewal of the privately-owned lands; they are uncertain if the private landowners would agree to renew their lease agreement or asking price for the renewal.

We have witnessed that the constitutional mandate of five or less years for existing leases to negotiate is too short for the hotel owners to finance additional improvements on the hotels, based on the appraisal value of the existing development on the occupied public land.

The attorney general has specifically stated that the intent of the bill does not violate any provision of the CNMI Constitution, specifically Article 11, Section 5 (c). As per the attorney general, "The amendments do not violate the NMI Const. Art. XI, § 5 (c), which prohibits the Marianas Public Land Corp. from transferring leasehold interest exceeding 25 years, because § 5 (c) is no longer constitutionally operative."

Therefore, and accordingly, the Senate Standing Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs have strongly recommended to the full Senate for the passage of the bill. That's the reason why I support of this bill.

The Mariana Resort and golf course is an example of public land lease situation. During its years of operation, it hired more than 100 Northern Marianas descent. Since BSI obtained the lease, there are less than 30 who are currently working. BSI has announced that it will not start construction of their project until 2023. The current situation is, BSI continues to extend Mariana Resort and golf course occupancy on a month-by-month rental. Most of the former Mariana Resort and Spa local employees are looking for jobs.

Inclusive of Mariana Resort and Spa, here are my additional concerns:

My office findings through inquiry on the number of NMD who will be affected by the demise of the public land lease with all the affected hotels are over 600. The multiplying factor of this number is almost 3,000 (employee, wife/husband and children). Will PSS be ready to provide them free meals?

Will they be able to purchase life insurance for their families and will the Department of Labor be ready to accommodate more than 600 clients?

We cannot allow for these families to line up at the food stamp and apply for Medicaid subsidy. It will be a disgrace on our part as elected leaders to just that.

Unlike other businesses that have closed their shops during the bad economic times, these hotels have been and continue to be with the Commonwealth during the good and bad times of our economy.

Let's be realistic on my benefit here as an NMD. We must not allow for these hotels to close and punish those that are currently directly benefiting, including the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) is a member of the 20th Legislature and chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Death doubles down in declining years

Death of all Kinds at an Early Age

"I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to."

—Albert Einstein

Does death come before dishonor your honor
when death at an early age gets out of the cage
few really care if she offered or did he con her
with drug-induced delusions and red-eyed rage.
What causes death before one's statistical time
stress and heart problems add up real quickly
snakes from the swamp slide out of the slime
lack of ideology makes those without it seem sickly.
Relative compared to what? death at an early age
how young before the heart burst fatally attacks
or someone gets murdered by an addict in a rage
a mortal problem created personal ethics it lacks.
Death at an early age of ideas and directions
death attained through unwise life selections.

Age Suits Me Best of All My Ages

"All soul! Now I have time to be, age suits me best of all my ages."

—Tao Tschung Yu, 18th century Chinese poet

When did all that gray hair start up on top
those wrinkles leave tracks of crow's feet
that stomach expansion never seems to stop
munching on ice cream pastries and sweets.
As we get older we're headed toward death
knees giving out meniscus cartilage and arthritis
your hike in the hills leaves you out of breath
now there's lactose intolerance and frequent colitis.
Yet each year of aging seems better than the next
less time lost daily activities organized in a group
smart phones unnecessary no need to learn to text
no problems with hot peppers or cow foot soup.
Sure of yourself and sure of your old friends
aging like good wine you head toward the end.

AMERICANS

From Page 10

Senator Rand Paul seemed to be where the Republican Party was going. The fears of terrorism had receded to the back burner.

It's now been about a decade since the financial crisis, arguably the start of this period of anxiety and xenophobia, so perhaps we'll start to see these impulses recede. The pain points associated with a tight labor market and labor shortages should increase the urgency for more workers from home and abroad. House Republicans trying to force a vote on immigration reform, even over the objections of President Trump and House leadership, may be a sign that things are changing. And following some number of Democratic seats picked up in this fall's election, the composition of government should be less xenophobic in 2019 than it is today.

NS: I hope you're right, and that economic good times will slowly make people stop worrying about ethnic conflict. But a pessimist might ask: If people are this upset about demographic change when times are good, what will they be like when the next downturn inevitably comes? I think your hypothesis that some other problem will come along to distract us from ethnic conflict is a better bet. I just hope that "something" isn't a big war.

In the meantime, what concrete steps can we take to improve American happiness? Basic income is one idea. A few thousand dollars a year would provide poor Americans with a very important cushion, and the universality of it might make people feel a sense of national unity. Taking steps to curb opioid abuse and alcoholism is another obvious one.

What about better urban development? Walkable neighborhoods wouldn't necessarily get people's noses out of their smartphones, but they might get them out of their houses.

And is there anything we can do to curb the overuse and abuse of social media?

NS: The latter parts of decades in recent memory have tended to be when we've reconciled with the excess of prevailing trends, so perhaps you're onto something here. Think about oil and inflation in the late 1970s, Japan in the late 1980s, dot coms in the late 1990s, and housing and credit in the late 2000s. Maybe this is a stretch, but perhaps the excess of the 2010s has become outrage, anger and unhealthy uses of technology. My friend Aaron Edelheit just wrote a book addressing the technology piece and advocating that people consider taking a digital Sabbath one day every week from all social media and email. Technology and social media have become so big a part of society that they have to be a part of our problems in some way.

As for new problems on the horizon as replacements for our current ones, I'm hoping it's something more like labor shortages and supply bottlenecks leading to inflation. That might tilt society to value labor—and workers more generally—more than it has in recent decades. It could lead to things like criminal justice reform as a self-interested way to grow the labor force. And we've already talked about how it could change attitudes about immigration.

In the spirit of this conversation, I'm going to stick with a pragmatic, hopeful outlook over one filled with anxiety.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Trump Party?

So now it's being called The Trump Party. I expect its leader will want supporters to address him as 'Mein Fuhrer' instead of Mr. President! Dangerous times indeed since the Republicans and Democrats seem to be at a loss for a plan of action to stop the madness.

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

RECOGNIZING

From Page 10

sected, matching the knowledge, behavior, skills and abilities needed for a specific career path with those held by an individual or taught by a college. And "adult-friendly" colleges are aligning learners' personal and experiential learning with their degree requirements, thus awarding advanced standing for that learning. Furthermore, they are aligning their degree requirements with work requirements, including behaviors and cross-cutting intellectual skills such as critical thinking and teamwork.

These two realities—the power of personal learning and the technological development to harness its value—are redefining the pathway to the degree. In other cases, it is eliminating the need for the degree and blowing through the "parchment ceiling" that has stymied and frustrated so many adults.

Using evidence-based assessments, learners' knowledge can be described and applied directly to job and other real-life requirements. And knowledge gained on the-job, in the community or in other venues, such as the armed services, can be applied for academic and economic value, deepening the learner's personal understanding of their learning as well as the value of that learning academically and economically.

Imagine a world in which you can do all of the following from your living room:

Calculate your current profile of knowledge, skills, behaviors and abilities;

Describe the goal(s) you have for your personal or professional growth;

Determine the gap between what you presently "know" and what knowledge you need to gain to meet your goal;

And chart your learning path forward to meet that goal, either with a college, an informal learning group, an employer, or on your own.

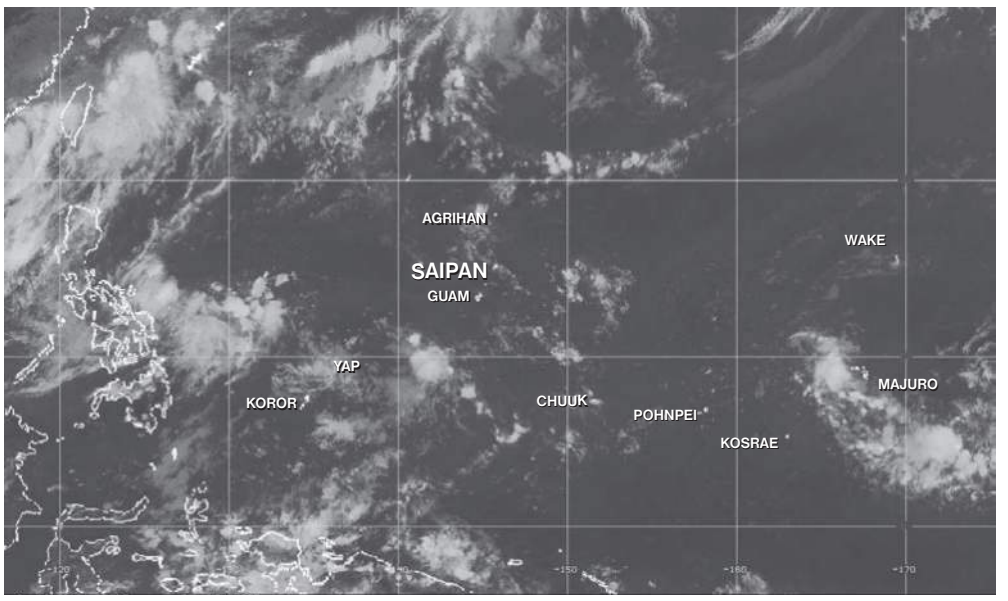
These are the benefits of free-range learning in a digital world and driven by the new rules and the new eco-system that is evolving to support you and your learning throughout life. And, more broadly, by bridging this divide for all who qualify, it can only improve the social, civic and economic future of our country.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:35 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There is a disturbance that has moved north of Saipan and other areas of showers and thunderstorms evident on satellite imagery generally to the east of the Marianas. A few isolated portions have been moving through at times overnight. Expect isolated showers and possibly a few thunderstorms through the morning hours. The thunder could linger a bit longer up north. Otherwise did not make any major changes to the forecast overnight. Still looks fairly dry for most of the week nothing more than isolated showers expected at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	87° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Cloudy	72° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 37°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	89° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
Tokyo	Rain	70° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	90° / 73°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.04
6:38 AM	LOW TIDE	1.04
11:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
6:25 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:06 AM	11:52 PM	-
Wednesday	12:02 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:36 AM	12:56 PM
Friday	-	1:18 AM	1:48 PM
Saturday	-	1:59 AM	2:39 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Laid off when casinos closed, back to work with reopenings

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—When Revel, Atlantic City's $2.4 billion casino shut down in 2014, Meg Timson wondered what would happen to a building that was only about two years old, and already out of business.

AP

In this June 11, 2018 photo, Meg Timson, a human resources manager at the soon-to-open Ocean Resort Casino poses for a photo in Atlantic City, N.J.

Turns out she didn't need to worry: She's been rehired for her human resources job now that the casino is reopening under new ownership and a new name: the Ocean Resort Casino.

"It feels like I never left," she said. "I sat down at my same desk, opened the drawer, and there was a ChapStick that I left there four years ago."

Timson is one of hundreds of workers who lost their jobs during a brutal two-year stretch in which five Atlantic City casinos shut down who are getting them back again now that their former casinos are reopening this month. That is welcome news in a resort that lost 11,000 jobs since 2014 when the Atlantic Club, Showboat, Revel, Trump Plaza and the Trump Taj Mahal closed down.

On June 28, the Taj Mahal will reopen at noon as the Hard Rock casino. Three hours later, Revel will reopen its doors as the Ocean Resort Casino. Together, they are restoring more than 6,000 lost jobs.

Bob McDevitt, president of the main Atlantic City casino workers' union, said about a third of those who lost their jobs in the shutdowns retired, another third took jobs with casinos in other states or in other industries and the remaining third got jobs with other Atlantic City casinos.

"These are very tough, resilient workers, and it's indicative of the kind of workers they are that these casinos want them back," he said.

Eileen Hendricks, who was Revel's marketing manager, recalls the day it shut its doors.

"We cleaned things up, made sure the paperwork was in order, walked outside and said to one another, 'We'll see each other in a couple weeks. We all thought it would be a short time till there was another buyer."

There was. Florida investor Glenn Straub bought Revel from bankruptcy court, but failed to reopen it over three years. He sold to Colorado developer Bruce Deifik in January, who quickly began preparing for its rebirth.

Hendricks took a job at the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles, Louisiana, all the while pining for Atlantic City.

"The whole time I was in Louisiana, I was watching this place, watching, watching, watching," she said. "I knew it was too beautiful of a place to stay closed forever."

David Petruzzi ran the cash-counting room at Revel, and will do so at Ocean Resort. He got a job at the Borgata, but was recruited to come back once Revel planned to reopen.

"Revel was a missed opportunity for Atlantic City," he said. "I really think this place is going to succeed this time."

There are two particular counting machines at the casino that his co-workers want to nickname "Ocean's 11" and Ocean's 12," in honor of the movie series about spectacular casino robberies.

"I said no; 'A' and 'B' will do just fine," Petruzzi said.

Alfred Kare was a waiter for 20 years at the Taj Mahal. When that job ended in October 2016, he got a gas utility job to help pay the bills. Hard winters outdoors in the rain and snow made him appreciate the chance to return to what is now Hard Rock even more.

"This is what I was born to do," he said. "The money we made from this casino was what we raised our families on and took our kids on vacation with."

Ramona Moran was a cocktail server at Revel. When it closed, she gave up on the casino industry and worked as a substitute teacher. Now, she's going back to work serving drinks at Hard Rock.

"I never thought I'd be back working in a casino again," she said. "When those doors open, it's going to be like going to a premiere of a movie you've waited a long time to see."

Poorly defined roles lead to office clashes

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: As the secretary for my church, I have become increasingly irritated with one of our volunteers. "Alice" is a long-time member who has helped out in the office for many years. The problem is that whenever Alice comes in, she just starts doing random tasks without consulting me first.

Because these administrative duties are part of my job, Alice's meddling creates a lot of confusion. For example, I recently discovered that she has been making entries in the master church calendar. Since she doesn't understand the process for scheduling events, I had to waste time undoing the mess that she made.

When I have tried to assign Alice specific tasks, she states that she has been here a long time and knows what she's doing. Our pastor is very busy, so I hate to bother him with such a petty issue. However, I need to regain control of my work. How should I handle this?

A: The root cause of your problem is poorly defined roles, a common workplace malady. When responsibilities are not clearly delineated, the resulting ambiguity can create confusion, conflict and power struggles. As you have discovered, unclear boundaries also allow pushy people to insinuate themselves into others' projects.

Given that Alice is ignoring your reasonable requests, the next step is to ask your pastor for help. Resolving role disputes typically requires management intervention, since only an authority figure can definitively decide who should be doing what. Just be sure to focus on work-related issues, not Alice's annoying traits.

For example: "I wanted to talk with you about a volunteer who seems unclear about her role. Although I'm sure she intends to be helpful, Alice often starts doing unnecessary tasks without telling me. I have tried to explain that this creates a lot of confusion, but she doesn't seem to understand. Could you talk with Alice and tell her that I will provide her assignments?"

If the pastor agrees, ask to sit in on this conversation so that everyone has the same understanding. Then, when Alice comes in to volunteer, greet her with a friendly smile and an agenda for the day.

Q: Because I started my job under unusual circumstances, I am now seriously underpaid. My position has been incorrectly classified from the beginning, but I can't figure out how to fix this.

As an employee of a public university, my pay scale is established by state government. Our human resources manager says the state's policies and procedures are out of his control, so he can't help. I have considered writing the governor, but I doubt that would do any good. How can I find the right person?

A: Since the governor is undoubtedly occupied with broader concerns, try contacting your state's central personnel office. They are likely to have compensation specialists who oversee the pay plans for state agencies. A quick internet search should provide you with an initial contact.

Once you have determined where to call, prepare a concise description of your problem and ask to speak with someone who can answer your questions. Just don't expect an immediate solution. In both government and corporate settings, reclassifying a position is seldom a simple process.

Trump to nominate OMB official to lead consumer watchdog

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump intends to nominate an associate director at the Office of Management and Budget to lead the government's consumer watchdog agency, the White House announced Saturday.

In a statement announcing the decision, spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said Kathy Kraninger "will bring a fresh perspective and much-needed management experience" to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which the administration has been trying to rebrand as the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

Trump's budget chief, Mick Mulvaney, has been filling in as the bureau's acting director along with running the OMB since late November when his predecessor, Richard Cordray, resigned.

Since then, Mulvaney has steered the bureau in a more industry-friendly direction.

In her statement, Walters said the agency had been "plagued by excessive spending, dysfunctional operations, and politicized agendas" in the past and that Kraninger would continue to implement the policies Mulvaney put in place.

The Senate must confirm her nomination.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was established after the 2008 financial crisis to ensure customers were not being exploited and that banks were complying with consumer protection laws.

Cordray, appointed by President Barack Obama, was criticized by congressional Republicans as being overzealous but was lauded by consumer advocates for aggressively going after banks for wrongdoing.

Mulvaney earlier this month dissolved a group of outside experts that acts as a sounding board for the federal watchdog agency on important economic and financial issues as well as policy. The law that created the CFPB mandates that bureau officials meet with the advisory board at least twice a year.

Bureau officials said the board would be reconstituted in the fall, likely with fewer than its current 25-person membership. None of the current members of the board, who typically serve three year terms, would be eligible to apply.

Mulvaney has also given big pay raises to the deputies he has hired to help him run the bureau.

Nation

First ladies call for changes on child separation policy

AP

First lady Melania Trump, center, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, left, applauds as President Donald Trump speaks to employees at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The emotional debate over separating immigrant parents and their children at the nation's southern border is getting some strong comments from first ladies — past and present—who want the practice changed.

First lady Melania Trump "hates" to see families separated at the border and hopes "both sides of the aisle" can reform the nation's immigration laws, according to a statement from her office Sunday about the controversy. Former first lady Laura Bush called the policy "cruel" and "immoral" and said "it breaks my heart."

For both, it was an unusual entry into a fierce political debate.

Mrs. Trump didn't refer specifically to the Trump administration's "no tolerance" policy, which was leading to a spike in children being separated from their families. Government statistics indicate that nearly 2,000 children were separated from their families over a six-week period in April and May.

A spokeswoman for the wife of President Donald Trump issued the statement after several days of images of crying children appearing on television and online.

"Mrs. Trump hates to see children separated from their families and hopes both sides of the aisle can finally come together to achieve successful immigration reform," said Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump. "She believes we need to be a country that follows all laws, but also a country that governs with heart."

While the statement suggested the matter was an issue for Congress, Democratic lawmakers and others have pointed out that no law mandates the separation of children and parents at the border. A new Trump administration policy, which went into effect in May, sought to maximize criminal prosecutions of people caught trying to enter the U.S. illegally. More adults were being jailed as a result, which led to their children being separated from them.

Laura Bush was writing a guest column for The Washington Post Sunday and compared the policy to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries, but this zero-tolerance policy is cruel," she wrote. She said "the U.S. government "should not be in the business of warehousing children in converted box stores or making plans to place them in tent cities in the desert outside of El Paso."

Trump said Friday, "I hate the children being taken away," but he also falsely blamed Democrats for a law requiring it.

In an effort to rebut criticism of the administration, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Sunday repeated in a tweet the department's view: "We do not have a policy of separating families at the border. Period." In a separate tweet, she accused the news media and others of misreporting the issue and called on those seeking asylum to do so at ports of entry rather than crossing illegally.

"This misreporting by Members, press & advocacy groups must stop. It is irresponsible and unproductive. As I have said many times before, if you are seeking asylum for your family, there is no reason to break the law and illegally cross between ports of entry," Nielsen wrote.

Trump adviser says 'nobody likes' family separation policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top White House adviser on Sunday distanced the Trump administration from responsibility for separating migrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border, even though the administration put in place and could easily end a policy that has led to a spike in cases of split and distraught families.

President Donald Trump has tried to blame Democrats, who hold no levers of power in the government, for a situation that has sparked fury and a national debate over the moral implications of his hard-line approach to immigration enforcement.

"Nobody likes" breaking up families and "seeing babies ripped from their mothers' arms," said Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to the president.

Nearly 2,000 children were separated from their families over a six-week period in April and May after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a new "zero-tolerance" policy that refers all cases of illegal entry for criminal prosecution. U.S. protocol prohibits detaining children with their parents because the children are not charged with a crime and the parents are.

The administration wants to send a message, said Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican critic of the policy, "that if you cross the border with children, your children are going to be ripped away from you. That's traumatizing to the children who are innocent victims, and it is contrary to our values in this country."

Trump plans to meet with House Republicans on Tuesday to discuss pending immigration legislation amid an election-season debate over an issue that helped vault the New York real estate mogul into the Oval Office in 2016. The House is expected to vote this week on a bill pushed by conservatives that may not have enough support to pass, and a compromise measure that includes key proposals supported by the president. The White House has indicated Trump would sign either of those.

Conway rejected the idea that Trump was using the kids as leverage to force Democrats to negotiate on immigration and his long-promised border wall, even after Trump tweeted Saturday: "Democrats can fix their forced family breakup at the Border by working with Republicans on new legislation, for a change!"

She, too, put the onus on Democrats, saying if there are serious about overhauling the system, "they'll come together again and try to close these loopholes and get real immigration reform."

Asked whether the president was willing to end the policy, she said: "The president is ready to get meaningful immigration reform across the board."

To Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the administration is "using the grief, the tears, the pain of these kids as mortar to build our wall. And it's an effort to extort a bill to their liking in the Congress."

Schiff said the practice was "deeply unethical" and that Republicans' refusal to criticize Trump represented a "sad degeneration" of the GOP, which he said had become "the party of lies."

"There are other ways to negotiate between Republicans and Democrats. Using children, young children, as political foils is abhorrent," said Sen Jack Reed, D-Rhode Island.

Rep. Ben Ray Lujon, D-N.M., said Trump "could pick up the phone and stop it today."

Even first ladies past and present gave their viewpoints.

Melania Trump, who has tended to stay out of contentious policy debates, waded into the emotional issue. Her spokeswoman says that Mrs. Trump believes "we need to be a country that follows all laws," but also one "that governs with heart."

"Mrs. Trump hates to see children separated from their families and hopes both sides of the aisle can finally come together to achieve successful immigration reform," spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said.

Former first lady Laura Bush wrote in a guest column in The Washington Post Sunday that the policy of separating immigrant parents and children along the nation's southern border is "cruel," ''immoral" and "it breaks my heart."

Hundreds of children wait in Border Patrol facility in Texas

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Inside an old warehouse in South Texas, hundreds of children wait in a series of cages created by metal fencing. One cage had 20 children inside. Scattered about are bottles of water, bags of chips and large foil sheets intended to serve as blankets.

One teenager told an advocate who visited that she was helping care for a young child she didn't know because the child's aunt was somewhere else in the facility. She said she had to show others in her cell how to change the girl's diaper.

The U.S. Border Patrol on Sunday allowed reporters to briefly visit the facility where it holds families arrested at the southern U.S. border, responding to new criticism and protests over the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy and resulting separation of families.

More than 1,100 people were inside the large, dark facility that's divided into separate wings for unaccompanied children, adults on their own, and mothers and fathers with children. The cages in each wing open out into common areas to use portable restrooms. The overhead lighting in the warehouse stays on around the clock.

The Border Patrol said close to 200 people inside the facility were minors unaccompanied by a parent. Another 500 were "family units," parents and children. Many adults who crossed the border without legal permission could be charged with illegal entry and placed in jail, away from their children.

Reporters were not allowed by agents to interview any of the detainees or take photos.

Nearly 2,000 children have been taken from their parents since Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the policy, which directs Homeland Security officials to refer all cases of illegal entry into the United States for prosecution. Church groups and human rights advocates have sharply criticized the policy, calling it inhumane.

Stories have spread of children being torn from their parents' arms, and parents not being able to find where their kids have gone. A group of congressional lawmakers visited the same facility Sunday and were set to visit a longer-term shelter holding around 1,500 children—many of whom were separated from their parents.

Asia

Afghan bomber kills 19, Taliban rejects cease-fire extension

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad on Sunday, killing at least 19 people in the second attack in as many days targeting Taliban fighters, security forces and civilians celebrating a holiday cease-fire. The Taliban later rejected an extension of the cease-fire.

Najibullah Kamawal, director of the provincial health department, said another 60 people were wounded in the attack, which struck a crowd of people as they left the governor's compound.

Saturday's attack, which also took place in Jalalabad, killed at least 36 people and wounded 65, according to Kamawal, director of the provincial health department.

No one has claimed the attacks, but they appeared to be the work of the Islamic State group, which is not included in the cease-fire and has clashed with the Taliban in the past. The local IS affiliate has a strong presence in the province.

AP

Taliban fighters and their supporters carry a representation of the Afghan national flag and a Taliban flag while riding in a motorized vehicle, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, June 17, 2018.

The bomber on Saturday targeted a gathering of Taliban fighters who were celebrating a three-day truce coinciding with the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

After the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a nine-day extension of the cease-fire.

The chairman of the High Peace Council, a government body charged with negotiating an end to the nearly 17-year war, called on the Taliban to accept the extended cease-fire and join the peace process.

"We hope that the extension of the cease-fire will be announced by the leadership of the Taliban," Mohammad Karim Khalili told a news conference in the capital, Kabul. He said there had been an "exchange of views" between the government and the Taliban over the past week, without elaborating.

But later Sunday the Taliban announced that their cease-fire had ended and they had no intention of extending it. "The cease-fire was announced by the Taliban for just the three days of the Eid holidays, which have come to an end this Sunday evening," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a statement. "All Mujahidin (Taliban) should continue their operations against foreign invaders and their puppets,"

The Taliban's statement added that their cease-fire was for their fighters to celebrate the holiday peacefully and not in response to the government's cease-fire announcement.

The Taliban have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, seizing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces. But over the past two days Taliban fighters could be seen celebrating the truce alongside Afghan troops and other people in a number of locations.

Taliban leaders have at different times expressed interest in holding peace talks to end the conflict. But they have refused to meet with the U.S.-backed government, saying they will only negotiate with the United States directly. They have also demanded the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 dead, dozens injured by quake in Osaka in western Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake knocked over walls and set off scattered fires around metropolitan Osaka in western Japan on Monday morning, killing at least three people and injuring dozens. The Osaka prefectural government's disaster management department said two people were found dead, while the Ibaraki city official confirmed a third victim. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said more than 40 were injured in Osaka and nearby prefectures of Hyogo and Kyoto. One victim was a 9-year-old girl who was knocked down by a concrete wall at her elementary school as she walked by. A man in his 80s died in the collapse of a concrete wall in Osaka city. An 84-year-old man in nearby Ibaraki died after a bookshelf fell on top of him at home, according to city officials. The magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck shortly after 8 a.m. north of Osaka at a depth of about 13 kilometers (8 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The strongest shaking was north of Osaka, but the quake rattled large parts of western Japan, including Kyoto, the agency said.

Former Cambodian PM Ranariddh hurt in car crash; wife killed

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian prince who was a candidate in upcoming general elections was seriously injured Sunday in a road crash that killed his wife and injured at least seven other people, officials said. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, 74, was in a convoy along with senior members of his FUNCINPEC party heading toward Sihanoukville in southwest Cambodia when a taxi traveling in the opposite direction slammed into his SUV, said a senior party member in the group. Ranariddh's wife also was standing as a candidate in Cambodia's general election next month. His wife, Ouk Phalla, died in a hospital after the crash, and Ranariddh suffered head injuries and was transferred to Phnom Penh for urgent treatment, Sihanoukville police chief Gen. Chuon Narin said. Ranariddh was Cambodia's co-prime minister for four years in an uneasy power-sharing arrangement with current Prime Minister Hun Sen after his party won a United Nations-organized election in 1993. His party's popularity was largely due to its royalist credentials, although Ranariddh's personal relations with his popular father, late King Norodom Sihanouk, were often strained.

Filipino Muslims mark Eid in ruins of war-torn Marawi

MARAWI, Philippines (AP)—Muslim residents of a southern Philippine city devastated by last year's bloody militant siege celebrated the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr on Friday in gunfire-riddled mosques while many whose homes were leveled by the fighting prayed in tent shelters.

A few thousand people walked past burned homes to Marawi city's landmark, the pockmarked Golden Mosque, to celebrate the three-day feasts marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. In an evacuation center elsewhere in the lakeside city, the homeless prayed in the open for an end to their misery.

"What happened to us is very painful because not only our livelihood was destroyed, even our faith in Islam was destroyed, the future of our children was destroyed, everything was destroyed," Soawair Saripada told The Associated Press.

The holiday is a poignant reminder of how life has crept back to normalcy for thousands who have returned home, but also of uncertainties for many others eight months after troops, backed by airstrikes and artillery fire, quelled the five-month insurrection by Islamic State group-aligned fighters.

"We hope peace will return here in Marawi and the government will help us with the damage," said Salek Omar, 76, who lives near the Golden Mosque in the Saduc neighborhood.

While a few small stores have opened and pedestrians and cars once again ply the streets outside the huge, decades-old mosque, the scars of last year's violence were still evident everywhere: the carcasses of burned homes, damaged minarets, walls and loudspeaker stands and shattered glass.

A Saduc village hall stands eerily empty with parts of its facade blasted off. A small house carries a spray-painted message, "I love ISIS."

Omar, a former government employee, brought his wife and some of his children and grandchildren to the sprawling mosque compound, where he has celebrated Eid since he was a child, except for last year, when hundreds of militants with Islamic State-style black flags occupied buildings and communities a few days before Ramadan. More than 300,000 residents, including Omar, fled the mosque-studded city and outlying towns as gunbattles erupted.

"We're now OK here," he said, appearing wary of speaking to outsiders.

In an evacuation center not far from Saduc, a few thousand people who lost their homes to the intense fighting prayed in the open and then later lined up, bowls and pitchers in hand, for food and water rations. Some broke down and cried while recalling their ordeal and pondering the future.

Esnitaya Macapundag wept while recalling the Ramadan periods and other milestones as she grew up in Marawi. "In a blink of an eye, we lost everything," she said.

The destroyed houses belonging to Macapundag and other displaced residents used to stand in a hilly community by Lake Lanao which remains off-limits to the public as troops continue to clear every house of unexploded ordnance, booby traps and homemade bombs and dangerous debris. The government is finalizing a plan to rebuild the hard-hit area, where troops routed the last batches of militants in a final battle.

Many residents have been allowed in to briefly check their homes, or whatever was left of them. Some broke down after finding their homes have been blasted away by artillery or airstrikes.

The city's journey back to normalcy may take years at a huge cost, said officials, some of whom have warned that if the rehabilitation falters, the restiveness it would generate could be exploited by Muslim militants.

The May 23 siege that was crushed in October killed more than 1,100 mostly militants, left the mosque city's heartland in rubbles, prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to place the southern third of the largely Roman Catholic country under martial law and reinforced fears that the Islamic State group was gaining a foothold in the Asian region. Sporadic offensives continue against militants in other southern provinces.

"We collectively observe this event to praise Allah in thanksgiving for providing our nation the strength to endure the challenges of misguided ideologies, terrorism and violent extremism," Duterte said Friday in an Eid message.

World

Sea convoy reaches Spain as migration debate roils Europe

AP
Migrants descend the Italian coast guard vessel Dattilo upon arrival at the eastern port of Valencia, Spain, Sunday, Jun. 17, 2018.

VALENCIA, Spain (AP)—An aid group's ship and two Italian military vessels docked Sunday at the Spanish port of Valencia, ending a weeklong ordeal for hundreds of people who were rescued from the Mediterranean Sea only to become pawns in a European political fight.

The Italian coast guard vessel Dattilo was the first of the boats in the convoy bearing 630 migrants to touch land, pulling in just before 7 a.m. The 274 recued people on board disembarked after medical staff made a preliminary inspection.

The rescue ship Aquarius came in four hours later carrying another 106 migrants. Aid workers awaiting their arrival clapped and cheered as the first passengers walked down the gangway. An Italian navy ship, the Orione, came in shortly after 1 p.m with the remaining 250.

The Aquarius, operated by the aid groups SOS Mediterranee Sea and Doctors Without Borders, was stuck off the coast of Sicily on June 9 when Italy's new populist government refused it permission to dock and demanded that Malta do so. Malta also refused.

After days of bickering and food and water running low on the ship, Spain stepped in and granted the rescue boat entry with a plan called "Operation Mediterranean Hope." The 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) journey across the Mediterranean from Sicily to Valencia took nearly a week.

After Spain invited the Aquarius to land, Italy sent the Dattilo and Orione to help transport the migrants.

David Noguera, the head of Doctors Without Borders in Spain, said he was glad Spain welcomed the ship's passengers, who were picked up off the coast of Libya. He said he is worried that more European nations will close their ports to migrants who are rescued at sea.

"I have mixed feelings," Noguera told The Associated Press as the first boat arrived in Valencia. "I am happy that the journey (for the Aquarius migrants) is over—a journey that was too long—and I am worried for the situation in the Mediterranean and the closing of European ports."

The migrants were met by emergency workers, health officials, Red Cross volunteers and psychologists at the city's marina. Each was assigned to a translator, and authorities worked to determine their identities before they were sent to welcome centers.

The first person through the process was a 29-year-old man from South Sudan.

In total so far, there were 31 different nationalities represented, with the largest numbers of people coming from the Sudan, Algeria, Eritrea and Nigeria, according to Spanish authorities. There were also 68 minors, 46 of them traveling without an adult family member.

Valencia emergency official Jorge Suarez said some of the migrants were in a state of shock.

"They are very shaken," Suarez said. "Put yourself in their position: you get off a ship and the first people who greet you are wearing masks."

Physical exams did not reveal any serious health problems, but many passengers showed signs of exposure to high temperatures. A total of 144 were taken to hospitals for treatment of minor health issues.

David Beversluis, the chief Doctors Without Borders physician on the Aquarius, said several of the rescued women were victims of sexual violence and rape.

"The horrible stories that we hear from people who come out of Libya is gutwrenching," he said. "Spending time with people, listening to some of the torturous situations that they've been through, was really one of the most challenging parts of the entire operation."

Spanish authorities are interviewing the migrants on a case-by-case basis to see who may qualify for asylum.

Due to their ordeal, the people from the Aquarius were granted authorization to remain in Spain for 45 days before they must begin resolving their legal situations.

"We have to strike a balance between our sensibilities and humanity, and our respect for the law," said Spain's migration minister, Magdalena Valerio.

"These people could not be left adrift in the Mediterranean, where they would face death," she told Spanish radio Cope. "(The EU) must recognize that it needs an immigration policy that these times require."

Meanwhile, several hundred more migrants were aboard an Italian coast guard vessel off Sicily on Sunday. The passengers came from a series of rescues in recent days, including ones carried out by cargo ships that Italy's Rome-based search-and-rescue coordination center asked to aid migrant boats in distress.

Jewish artifacts disappear from Damascus in fog of Syria war

BEIRUT (AP)—Jewish artifacts, including ancient parchment torahs from one of the world's oldest synagogues, have gone missing from the Syrian capital amid the tumult of ongoing civil war, with some precious items reportedly surfacing abroad.

Activists say the artifacts, moved from the now-destroyed Jobar Synagogue in Damascus' eastern Ghouta suburb when it was taken by rebels, were allegedly put into safe keeping to avoid theft and damage in 2013, but twice since then local officials have discovered some are missing.

The main missing cache, they say, contained torahs written on gazelle leather as well as tapestries and chandeliers, and was given to a militia by a local council for safekeeping when rebels surrendered the neighborhood to government forces earlier this year. That group, the Islamist-inspired Failaq al-Rahman brigade, later said that it was not in possession of the items after the council arrived at a new rebel base in Syria's north after evacuating earlier this year.

Another set of objects appears to have been stolen by a Syrian guardian entrusted by the local council to hide the items in his home. The man, who officials involved declined to name, disappeared with the artifacts in 2014 before some allegedly resurfaced in Turkey.

Activists say antiquities theft is rife in Syria, and some even cast doubt over whether the missing items, including the valuable torahs, were even original works.

"Some of the items that went missing in 2014 and this year have started surfacing now in Turkey," said an activist who lived near the synagogue his whole life until fleeing the area in March after a crushing government offensive. The man, who goes by the name of Hassan al-Dimashqi, said the ensuing government airstrikes and bombardment destroyed most of the synagogue and the surrounding neighborhood, although some of the building's pillars remain standing.

The synagogue, also known as Eliyahu Hanavi, is one of the few Jewish places of worship in Syria that was functioning until shortly before conflict began in March 2011. Residents of the neighborhood remember how less than a dozen Jews, most of them over 50, came quietly once a week to pray.

Videos and photographs from the synagogue taken before the war show a main hall of arches lined with seats and tapestries. Chandeliers and lanterns hang from the ceiling as well as a marble stone with writing in Arabic, Hebrew and Latin.

WORLD BRIEFS

US-backed Syrian fighters capture key village from IS

BEIRUT (AP)—A U.S.-backed Syrian force says it has captured an important village near the Iraqi border from the Islamic State group. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said on Sunday that its fighters captured Dashishah in the northeastern province of Hassakeh, a major crossing point between Iraq and Syria when IS ran its self-styled caliphate. The group, which has been among the most effective in fighting IS in Syria, added that SDF fighters also entered the town of Naserah and are about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Iraqi border. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said the SDF captured 22 villages and farms in the area during two weeks of fighting. It added that 49 extremists have been killed since the SDF's offensive on Hassakeh's IS-held area.

Woman hurts 2 in south France with box cutter, is detained

PARIS (AP)—A woman crying "Allahu akbar"—"God is great" in Arabic—injured two people with a box cutter Sunday at a supermarket in southern France before she was detained. A customer in the store in the maritime town of La Seyne-sur-Mer was injured in the chest and hospitalized. A woman working the cash register was hurt less seriously, French radio station Europe 1 quoted the prosecutor in nearby Toulon as saying. Prosecutor Bernard Marchal said the suspect may have mental health problems. She has not been identified. Police were searching her home. "It's apparently an isolated case involving a person with psychiatric issues," the prosecutor told Le Monde newspaper quoted the prosecutor as saying. However, that does not exclude the possibility that the suspect was radicalized, Marchal added. "There is a presumption of attempted murder and ... of a crime with terrorist implications," Marchal was quoted as saying.

Police: Taxi driver who hit 8 Moscow pedestrians fell asleep

MOSCOW (AP)—The suspect in a taxi crash near Red Square that injured two Mexican soccer fans and six other pedestrians as Russia hosts the World Cup told interrogators he fell asleep at the wheel, Moscow city police said Sunday. The police released a video of an interrogation session with a man the Moscow force identified as the taxi driver. In the recording, he says he briefly dozed off and accidentally hit the gas. It was unclear whether the man spoke under duress. The man in the video says he hadn't slept in 20 hours and wasn't drunk, and ran away after the accident because he was afraid that angry bystanders would kill him. He was later detained. The Moscow city traffic authority identified the driver as 28-year-old Chyngyz Anarbek, who is from Kyrgyzstan. Speaking to The Associated Press from the town of Muras Ordo in Kyrgyzstan, Anarbek's older brother said only had been working as a taxi driver for a month. He said his sibling was in "stress, shock, horror" after what happened.

Focus

Members of People's Democratic Party hold up placards during a rally to oppose military exercises between the United States and South Korea near the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, June 15, 2018. U.S. President Donald Trump promised to end "war games" with South Korea, calling them provocative, after meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un earlier this week. The signs read " Stop Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercises and withdrawal of U.S. troops." AP

Looming war games suspension raises concern in Seoul

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

After being blindsided by President Donald Trump's decision to shelve major U.S. military exercises in South Korea, Seoul appears to be going along with it.

A senior South Korean presidential official said Friday that Washington and Seoul have begun discussions on temporarily suspending the massive "Ulchi Freedom Guardian" exercises that usually take place in August and possibly other joint drills while nuclear diplomacy with North Korea continues. Seoul's Defense Ministry said Defense Minister Song Young-moo held "deep" discussions about the drills with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis in a telephone conversation Thursday evening.

The presidential official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules, said an official announcement on the drills is "coming soon, within the next few days" and it seems almost certain the exercises will be halted.

The official spoke a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in, holding a National Security Council meeting for the first time since a North Korean long-range missile test in November, said the allies can be flexible about their military pressure on the North. But that's only as long as North Korea, which launched a diplomatic initiative in 2018, remains sincerely engaged in negotiations on its nuclear disarmament, Moon said.

Moon's assessment highlights the big "if." There are lingering questions over whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will ever agree to fully relinquish a hard-won nuclear arsenal he may see as a stronger guarantee of his survival than whatever security assurances the United States could provide. Those doubts only increased after Tuesday's summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore, where they issued an aspirational vow to seek the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula without describing when and how it would occur.

The joint drills and the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea have been the core of the alliance between the two countries.

Trump's decision to suspend the exercises, coupled with the vague joint statement issued after his summit with Kim, have reinforced fears in South Korea that the North is attempting to take advantage of a U.S. president who appears to care less about the traditional alliance than his predecessors.

Such concerns are shared in Japan, the region's other major U.S. ally. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodra told reporters Friday that the joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea are "important pillars in maintaining regional peace and stability."

Not everyone thinks suspending the war games is a bad idea. Some analysts say putting off the drills is a necessary trust-building step with North Korea following nearly 70 years of hostility and would allow the allies to push the process forward more easily.

But others are decidedly more critical, saying Trump wasted critical leverage against North Korea, which has yet to take material steps toward denuclearization.

"We will know whether it was a good move or not in a month or two," said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "If the North responds by providing evidence of its claimed closure of a missile engine test site and also freezes and shuts down some of its nuclear facilities, then the suspension of the drills can be chalked up as a success. If the North doesn't take quick steps toward denuclearization, then we gave up the drills for nothing."

Kim Jae-yeop, a professor of defense strategy at South Korea's Hannam University, said the suspension of the drills was likely the one clear move the allies had to lure North Korea into a denuclearization process.

He said it would have been a colossal mistake to pre-emptively lift the heavy economic sanctions against North Korea, and that Washington couldn't unilaterally remove the most stringent measures anyway because they were passed by the U.N. Security Council.

Washington and Seoul tried to entice North Korea with a possible declaration to formally end the Korean War, which halted 65 years ago with an armistice, not a peace treaty, but apparently that wasn't enough for Kim Jong Un.

"Unlike sanctions, the allies can just snap their military exercises back on if it becomes clear North Korea won't be delivering on their end," said Kim, the professor, who said the allies would be able to maintain operational readiness with routine and lower-level drills.

He also noted that the allies have used the war games as a bargaining chip before. To entice North Korea to sign on to a non-nuclear agreement, Seoul and Washington called off the now-defunct "Team Spirit" drills in 1992. But, annoyed with North Korea's refusal to allow nuclear inspections, they revived the exercises the following year.

This year, the allies delayed their springtime drills for weeks to encourage North Korean participation in the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The U.S. and South Korea hold major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea. The spring one—actually a pair of overlapping exercises called "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle"—includes live-fire drills with tanks, aircraft and warships, and usually involves about 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops.

> **"Now everyone is concerned about the security of the North Korean regime, but who's looking after the safety and security of South Korean people?"**

The summer Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise consists mainly of computer simulations to hone joint decision making and planning. Some 17,500 American and 50,000 South Korean troops participated last year.

North Korea has always reacted to the exercises with belligerence and often its own demonstrations of military capability.

During last year's Ulchi exercises, North Korea fired a powerful new intermediate range missile over Japan in what its state media described as a "muscle-flexing" countermeasure to the drills . North Korean leader Kim then called for more weapons launches targeting the Pacific Ocean to advance his country's ability to contain Guam, a U.S. military hub. North Korea did not carry out a threat to lob missiles toward Guam.

During the Ulchi drills in 2016, North Korea successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile, a critical military breakthrough that raised alarm in South Korea and Japan. Shortly after the drills, the North carried out its fifth nuclear test.

The suspension of the drills could allow more diplomatic space for Washington and Seoul to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea. But for Seoul, the way Trump announced the decision is also a cause for concern, some experts say.

In addition to not consulting with South Korea before saying the war games should be stopped, Trump called the exercises "very provocative," contradicting countless previous declarations by Washington and Seoul over the years that the drills are routine and defensive in nature. Trump also complained that the drills "cost a fortune" and said he would eventually want to bring home all U.S. troops from South Korea.

Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Korea University, said Trump's comments indicate he considers the stoppage of the drills and the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea as a goal, rather than a concession to be granted to North Korea if it takes irreversible and verifiable steps to relinquish its nuclear weapons, facilities and materials.

"What has become clear is that the security provided by the U.S.-South Korea alliance has likely reached its limit," said Nam, a former analyst for South Korea's spy agency. "South Korea has to start thinking about new defense strategies so that it could maintain security against North Korea on its own."

An editorial published Friday in the conservative Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's largest newspaper, echoed Nam's concern, saying the U.S.-South Korean alliance is being substantially undermined while the prospects for disarming the North are getting murky.

"Now everyone is concerned about the security of the North Korean regime, but who's looking after the safety and security of South Korean people?" the newspaper said.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Whatever its name means, the 2019 Lexus ES is surprisingly provocative and athletic

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The 2019 Lexus ES (Lexus). TNS

From its debut in 1989, the Lexus ES has been Lexus' top-selling sedan, one that prioritizes refinement and solitude over driving thrills. While endearing to older drivers who prefer a comfortably sedate sedan, it did little to attract younger buyers who understandably thought that ES was an acronym for Elderly Shuttle rather than Executive Sedan, its true nom de guerre.

Selling in more than 90 countries, Lexus is about to release the redesigned 2019 Lexus ES, which employs an all-new platform that it shares with the 2019 Toyota Avalon. In fact, the 2019 ES shares the 2019 Avalon's 113-inch wheelbase and 195.9-inch overall length. This means the ES has grown 2.6 inches longer, 0.2 inches lower and 1.8 inches wider than before. The wheelbase has also grown by 2 inches, allowing for an exceptionally roomy cabin, particularly in the rear seat. In fact, according to Lexus, the ES has more rear seat legroom than the flagship Lexus LS sedan. Overall size is larger than a BMW 3-Series, but smaller than the 5-Series.

All that length is put to good use. Looking like a miniaturized LS, the ES gracefully embraces Lexus's kinetic new styling, a look highlighted by the brand's distinctive spindle grille and L-shaped LED taillamps. Lexus' design chief Koichi Suga describes it as "provocative elegance."

Despite the new platform and updated appearance, the ES's chief attribute remains intact. To ensure the ES is even quieter than its predecessor, sound-deadening insulation covers 93 percent of the floor pan, up from 68 percent. This explains why the ES is extraordinarily quiet at all speeds. Hybrids are noticeably noisier thanks to their low rolling resistance tires, although not by much. Its sheer silence might seem at odds with Lexus's attempts to inject the ES with a more exciting demeanor, but that's not the case. The old car didn't possess a scintilla of excitement, whereas the new one possesses a pulse, although how much of one depends on which model you choose.

The ES 350 is powered by a double-overhead cam 3.5-liter V-6 that produces 302 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque, an increase of 34 horsepower and 19 pound-feet of torque from the previous V-6. Fuel efficiency is up as well. While final EPA numbers aren't available, Lexus estimates average fuel economy of 26 mpg. A new eight-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode is standard; a manual transmission isn't available. The ES 300h Hybrid comes with an all-new 2.5-liter four-cylinder Atkinson cycle gas engine mated to an electric motor and continuously variable automatic transmission rated at 215 horsepower. Fuel efficiency is estimated by Lexus at 44 mpg, although test drives of the new ES 300h saw fuel economy reach 45.9 mpg. Finally, there's a new F-Sport model that employs the V-6 engine with the eight-speed transmission but adds front and rear adjustable performance dampers, 19-inch wheels with 235/40 all-season tires and a rear spoiler. Other models have 17-inch wheels, although 18-inchers are optional.

This results in three very different personalities. The ES 350 is responsive and powerful, although the transmission chooses a high gear and then hesitates before downshifting when more power is needed. Nevertheless, it runs 0-60 mph in 6.6 seconds. In contrast, the ES 300h makes the same run in 8.1 seconds. Although noticeably slower, most buyers will be happy with this model.

Once underway, you'll find the new ES is somewhat more engaging than the outgoing model. The suspension isn't floaty yet still masterfully absorbs bumps. Credit the car's unique shock absorbers that have a mini piston inside the larger shock to handle smaller bumps on moderately smooth surfaces that don't require much shock travel. The bigger piston handles the larger bumps. Body lean is evident during cornering, but it's well controlled. Push this car and you'll find its limits are higher than you'd expect. This is particularly true of the F-Sport, which is a credible, fun-to-drive sports sedan that's more than capable of putting a smile on your lips by providing athleticism never associated with an ES.

Nevertheless, the eight-speed transmission still acts with the annoying fuel-efficient shifting found on other models. The Hybrid's continuously variable transmission lacks the rubber-banding common in this type of transmission, when the engine revs but the car doesn't move forward.

While piloting the ES, you'll find the instrument panel centers around an eight-inch infotainment interface that uses a touchpad on the center console. While it's an improvement from the joystick previously used by Lexus, it's still not as easy to use as other systems that employ a touchscreen or knob. An eight-inch screen with a 10-speaker Pioneer audio system is standard; a 17-speaker Mark Levinson audio system and 12.3-inch screen are options. The new ES is Amazon Alexa-enabled; Apple CarPlay, a Wi-Fi hotspot, and wireless charging come standard.

The 2019 Lexus ES350 goes on sale in September.

"We are confident that we have created a new expectation of what a luxury car should be," Suga said during the car's introduction in Nashville last week, and it's no idle boast.

For the first time, the Lexus ES isn't an Elderly Shuttle; it's an Excellent Sedan.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 LEXUS ES

- **Base prices:** $39,000 (estimated)
- **Engine:** 3.5-liter DOHC V6
- **Horsepower:** 302
- **Torque:** 267 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy:** Not available
- **Wheelbase:** 113 inches
- **Length:** 195.9 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 16.7 cubic feet
- **Curb weight:** 3,649 pounds

Under the Hood: Getting to the bottom of a rough-running engine

Q I have begun to have a problem with my 2001 Ford Escape with the V-6 engine. It starts fine in the morning and runs OK for a few miles, and then it begins chugging and loping when I come to a stop. It also hesitates to take off but then drives OK again after I get to higher speeds. Any idea of what could be the cause before I make a service appointment?

— Karen

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

A There are many possible reasons for an engine to idle rough or hesitate on acceleration, but most of them would occur at all times. Your comment that the engine runs fine for a short time before acting up leads me to focus on the EGR system. This is an emission control strategy that allows a small quantity of exhaust gasses to be recirculated through the engine a second time. Adding a small, carefully regulated quantity of exhaust to the incoming air-fuel charge reduces combustion temperature, and the formation of NOx, a nasty emission compound.

I wrote about this a while back, regarding a GM vehicle, but have since heard of quite a few other makes and models of vehicles encountering similar issues. Many but not all vehicles have EGR, some use a vacuum operated EGR valve (addressed here) and others use a purely electric EGR, which isn't prone to the problem I'll mention.

EGR is not supposed to occur when the engine is cold, or when it's idling. If it does, engine roughness such as you described may occur. Since your Escape runs well when the engine is cold, it appears the computer controlled electric solenoid (valve) controlling the EGR valve is functioning normally.

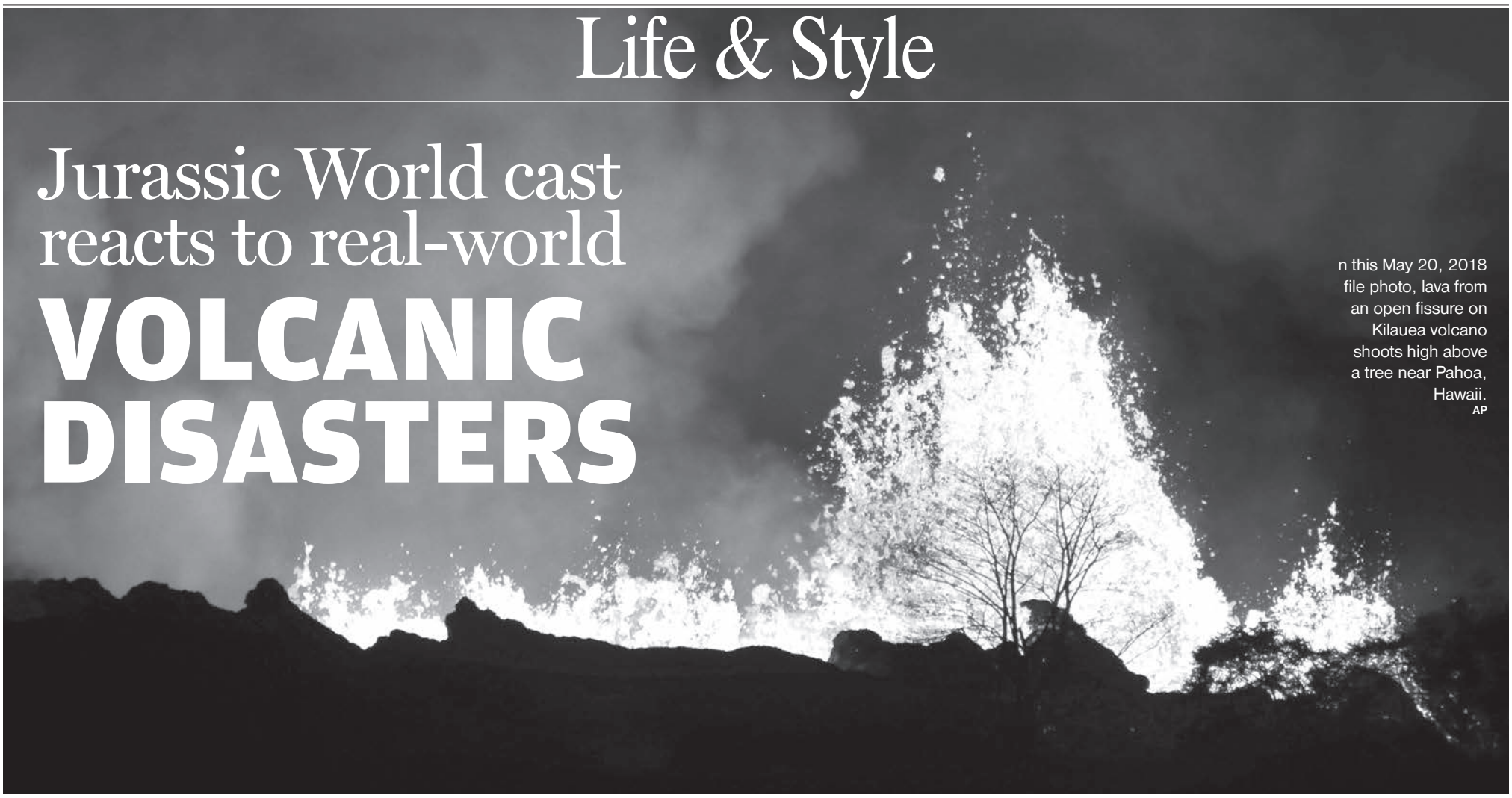
What I believe may be happening is the control solenoid's vent filter has become restricted, which causes the EGR valve to linger open when the engine returns to idle. This is a serviceable and inexpensive part, located beneath a removable black plastic cap that snaps onto the top of EGR control solenoid. Unsnapping the cap reveals a removable foam thimble, which can be either cleaned or replaced. Try removing the filter and drive the Escape for a short time without it to see if this corrects your idle loping/roughness symptom.

On other vehicles with a less obvious vent filter location, or perhaps a non-serviceable integrated filter, one can temporarily disconnect and plug the vacuum hose leading to the EGR valve (its location, along with that of the control solenoid, should be indicated on the under-hood emission control information label—if EGR isn't mentioned, the vehicle likely does not have one).

Try driving the vehicle for a few minutes to check for a difference in performance. If it markedly improves, an EGR fault exists. If the check engine light illuminates, don't worry; it'll go out within a day or two and the stored trouble code will self-erase in about two weeks. Long term disconnection of the EGR is not advised, as it is illegal, increases emissions and may lead to engine-damaging detonation (spark knock).

I should add that an engine that idles rough cold or hot may be the result of an EGR valve that does not fully close. The cause is often a build-up of carbon on the valve seat. Rough running while under way can result from a faulty EGR position or exhaust pressure sensor.

Life & Style



n this May 20, 2018 file photo, lava from an open fissure on Kilauea volcano shoots high above a tree near Pahoa, Hawaii. AP

Jurassic World cast reacts to real-world VOLCANIC DISASTERS

By CALEB JONES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—The lava pours from the ceilings. It explodes from the mountaintop. It creeps, then pours and roars down the mountainside as people frantically try to escape—with dinosaurs chasing after them.

It's the opening act of a major summer blockbuster, but the eruption part is reality for people who live under Hawaii's Kilauea and Guatemala's Fuego volcanoes.

The cast and crew of "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" say it's unfortunate that their summer film revolves around a massively destructive erupting volcano. It's also—obviously—not their fault.

The film shot in Hawaii and the United Kingdom in 2017 premiered in Madrid in May, three weeks after Kilauea started sending lava into neighborhoods. It is set to be released June 22 in the United States.

The first "Jurassic World" ranks among history's biggest box-office hits with $1.7 billion in worldwide ticket sales.

The stars held a media day last week to promote the dinosaur sequel on Oahu, less than 200 miles (161 kilometers) from Hawaii's Big Island where lava from Kilauea has destroyed more than 600 homes since early May. In Guatemala, at least 110 people were killed when a volcano erupted June 3, sending waves of super-heated debris onto villages on its flanks.

The film's writer and producer, Colin Trevorrow, said the timing of the film's release was not something they could have planned for.

"Obviously not something that was anticipated in any way," Trevorrow said at Oahu's Kualoa Ranch, where some of the movie was filmed. "And if anything, I think it just is a reminder of the unrelenting power of planet earth and how just dwarfed we are by that."

Characters in the film go to a tropical island where their man-made dinosaurs face extinction from an erupting volcano.

Actress Bryce Dallas Howard, who plays Clare, the head of the park in the previous film who now sets out to save the animals she once oversaw, said she is uncertain how volcano-affected people might receive the fictional depiction of spewing molten rock that dominates the first part of the film.

"I really don't know," she said. "I mean, it's intense what's happening. And a natural disaster is one of those things that kind of, those moments I think bring everyone together because that's not a political act, you know, it's something where we are all vulnerable to the power of this planet."

Though the scenes of molten rock exploding from the volcano in the movie smack of Hollywood dramatization, Trevorrow said the "Jurassic" team worked diligently to create realistic imagery.

"We had volcanologists as consultants and we watched a lot of film and a lot of video of various kinds of volcanoes and how they erupted. And we made sure that we timed it out very carefully and presented it in a way that had clear visceral, visual imagery—those cracks in the earth that formed, that we've all been seeing, you know, on CNN, the speed of lava flow," Trevorrow said.

Some of the computer-generated characteristics of lava in the film mirror what is actually happening in Hawaii and Guatemala, Trevorrow added.

"It was interesting for me to watch, you know, with the speed of the Kilauea lava flow that started off so slowly and grew faster and faster to the point where it was as fast as our lava," he said.

Actor Justice Smith, a newcomer to the "Jurassic" franchise, said the film's release timing is an "unfortunate coincidence" and that his "heart goes out to the people that are suffering over there."

Daniella Pineda, another emerging actress that plays a central role in the new movie, expects people who have had to endure the deadly and destructive volcanoes in Guatemala and Hawaii will be affected by the fictional depictions of roaring lava.

"I think it will definitely evoke emotion," Pineda said. "I know I felt that way because of all the recent volcanoes and the timing of that in our fictionalized world. Yes, it was just a pure coincidence. It's just very unfortunate."

Director J. A. Bayona was hesitant to draw parallels between fantasy and real-world disasters.

"In this case, I think it's a movie to have fun," Bayona said. "Of course, it's terrible what's going on right now Guatemala or in Hawaii, but I don't see the connection in there."

Bayona also oversaw the making of "The Impossible," which was based on the true story of a tsunami in Thailand. Of that film, he said, "you feel the responsibility of telling a true story."

Longtime "Jurassic" actor Jeff Goldblum echoed the sentiments of the rest of the cast.

"It's coincidental because of course they didn't know," Goldblum said. "I'm just concerned about, you know, the effects of it and the impact ... and hope everybody's OK and makes it out OK."

Neil shines like a Diamond at Songwriters Hall of Fame gala

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Diamond may have retired from touring due to Parkinson's disease, but the singer didn't let that stop him from giving a cheery and memorable performance at the 2018 Songwriters Hall of Fame ceremony.

Diamond, who was officially inducted into the Hall in 1984, earned the Johnny Mercer Award on Thursday and closed the multi-hour event in New York City with a rousing rendition of "Sweet Caroline."

He was happy and excited onstage, performing an extended version of the iconic song, backed by a band and the audience of songwriters and music industry players who sang along.

The 77-year-old, who announced he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in January and canceled planned concerts, barely spoke at the event, where John Mellencamp, Alan Jackson, Kool and the Gang and Jermaine Dupri were inducted as the Hall's 2018 class.

Allee Willis—who cowrote the Broadway musical "The Color Purple" and Earth, Wind & Fire's "September"—was the first inductee of the night. She won over the audience with stories about her father who told her to "stay away from black culture" and her friend whose frisky behavior helped her connect her songs to singers.

"Her sex life was unbelievable for my career," she said to laughs.

Willis, the only female to be inducted this year, used her speech to honor women who have not received their credit as songwriters and producers.

"I really started thinking about how, at the time, mentally painful it was that the girls were not getting the chances the boys were. So I just want to say, 'We're here. We've always been here. And we're no longer the little wilting flowers that we were when it comes to equality.' So wipe off the seats because here we come."

Others speeches throughout the night struck with similar emotion.

Inductee and Grammy-nominated country songwriter Steve Dorff wiped the tears from his eyes when he was onstage; his son, actor Stephen Dorff, was also teary-eyed when he spoke about his father during the induction.

Usher was passionate when he inducted Dupri, who has co-written a number of the R&B star's hits, including "Nice & Slow," ''U Got It Bad," ''Burn" and "Confessions Part II."

"I love you J.D. You're like the big brother I never had and also the motivator who pushed me when I was at my lowest," he said.

Mariah Carey, who has collaborated on hits like "We Belong Together" and "Always Be My Baby" with Dupri, made a surprise appearance and received a warm applause from the crowd. The pop diva, who has co-written 17 of her 18 No. 1 hits, was nominated for the Songwriters Hall but didn't make the final cut.

CNN contributor co-writes 'investigative' Pence biography

NEW YORK (AP)—Author and CNN contributor Michael D'Antonio has co-written an "investigative" biography of Vice President Mike Pence.

"The Shadow President," by D'Antonio and Peter Eisner, will be published Aug. 28 by Thomas Dunne Books. According to the publisher, which announced the book on Friday, Eisner and D'Antonio will portray the former Indiana governor as a man of longtime presidential ambitions under his image of "Midwestern nice."

D'Antonio's previous books include "The Truth About Trump." Eisner's books include "MacArthur's Spies: The Soldier, the Singer, and the Spymaster Who Defied the Japanese in World War II." He is a former editor and reporter for The Washington Post.

Stephen Hawking's ashes buried in Westminster Abbey

LONDON (AP)—The ashes of Stephen Hawking were buried Friday in a corner of Westminster Abbey that honors some of Britain's greatest scientists, between the graves of Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton.

More than 1,000 people attended a service of thanksgiving in the ancient abbey for the physicist, who died in March at age 76 after decades of living with motor neuron disease. When he was diagnosed, aged 22, he was given only a few years to live.

Hawking conducted groundbreaking research into black holes and the origins of the universe, and gained global fame as a popularizer and communicator of science. His book "A Brief History of Time" sold 9 million copies—even if many readers didn't finish it—and he appeared on "Star Trek: The Next Generation," ''The Big Bang Theory" and "The Simpsons."

"His name will live in the annals of science," Astronomer Royal Martin Rees told the memorial service. "Nobody else since Einstein has done more to deepen our understanding of space and time.

"Millions have had their horizons widened by his books and lectures, and even more worldwide have been inspired by a unique example of achievement against all the odds," Rees said.

Hawking's first wife Jane and daughter Lucy were among an eclectic crowd that included scientists and schoolchildren; politicians including U.K. Culture Secretary Matt Hancock and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn; Chic guitarist Nile Rogers; actress Lily Cole; comedian David Walliams; and talk-show host Piers Morgan.

Guests also included 1,000 members of the public selected by ballot from 25,000 applicants. A private funeral service was held in March in Cambridge, where Hawking lived and worked for decades.

The service included biblical readings by actor Benedict Cumberbatch, who played Hawking in a BBC drama, and Hawking's daughter Lucy. Astronaut Tim Peake read from "Queen Mab" by poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, which evokes the wonders of the universe.

Kip Thorne, a Nobel prize-winning American physicist, paid tribute to "by far the most stubborn friend I ever had.

"He absolutely refused to let his physical disability get in the way of doing great science or get in the way of having great fun," Thorne said.

The 900-year-old abbey is the resting place of a pantheon of British historical figures, including kings and queens, political leaders and writers including Geoffrey Chaucer and Charles Dickens.

Hawking was interred in the abbey's Scientists' Corner, beneath a stone inscribed: "Here lies what was mortal of Stephen Hawking"—an English translation of the Latin words on the nearby grave of Newton, the 17th-century scientist who discovered the laws of gravity. The stone is also inscribed with one of Hawking's equations describing the entropy of a black hole.

After the service, Hawking's words, set to music by Greek composer Vangelis, were being beamed into space from a European Space Agency satellite dish in Spain. Hawking's daughter, Lucy, said the music would be aimed at "the nearest black hole, 1A 0620-00," more than 3,000 light years from Earth.

The ashes of Professor Stephen Hawking are laid to rest during his memorial service at Westminster Abbey in London, Friday June 15, 2018. AP

Boris Becker claims diplomatic immunity in UK bankruptcy

LONDON (AP)—Retired German tennis star Boris Becker is claiming his unpaid role as a sports attache for Central African Republic gives him diplomatic immunity from bankruptcy proceedings in Britain.

Becker

The three-time Wimbledon champion took up the attache role in April. His lawyers claimed in Britain's High Court late Thursday that this protects him from ongoing bankruptcy actions.

Becker says his role as Central African Republic attache to the European Union on sporting, cultural and humanitarian affairs means he is covered by a 1961 convention on diplomatic relations.

Legal expert Mark Stephens told The Associated Press that in his view Becker's claim is valid, but he urged Central African Republic to take steps to prevent the apparent abuse of diplomatic immunity.

Q&A: Christopher Plummer on playing a weed dealer at 88

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Regal and commanding even in his youth, Christopher Plummer has turned into an even mightier force in old age.

The 88-year-old Plummer earlier this year became the oldest actor ever nominated for an Oscar (for his J. Paul Getty in "All the Money in the World"), six years after setting the mark for eldest acting winner (for his coming-out 75-year-old in "Beginners"). The King Lear phase of Plummer's career has been colorfully crowded with aged men too roiled by appetite to resemble any standard portraits of the elderly.

In his latest, Shana Feste's "Boundaries," Plummer plays the estranged, weed-dealing father of a single mother (Vera Fermiga). The film, which opens June 22, is Feste's semi-autobiographical road trip about her own comically flawed family.

"I loved playing that old geezer," Plummer said with characteristic relish for a meaty role. In a recent interview at a Manhattan hotel, Plummer discussed his own connections to the part, his last-minute substitution for the disgraced Kevin Spacey on "All the Money in the World" and his undying thirst for acting.

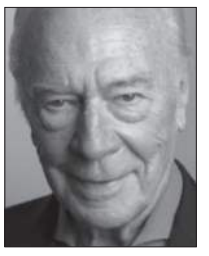
AP: When we spoke six years ago, you said the onset of your 80s made you feeling panicked at having enough time to accomplish what you wanted. Do you still feel that way?

Plummer: No, I don't. There isn't as much panic because now I've been through my 80s. That kind of panic does not exist anymore. I'm enjoying myself very much. And in my 80s, I had another career. I'm very happy about that. It's gone better than most other decades have.

AP: Why is that?

Plummer: The parts. I played everything in the theater. I still would like to do something else in the theater, of course. But I've played all the great parts. And not too shabbily. Now I want the same great parts, if I can, on the screen. And so far, yes. I've played marvelous characters.

AP: In your memoir "In Spite of Myself," you romantically recounted your heavy-drinking days. Do you have any marijuana experience, like your character in "Boundaries"?



Plummer

Plummer: No, I've tried little attempts at marijuana and a couple of others. It never did any good to me at all. I just fell asleep. I just disappeared into myself. No, I prefer the gregariousness of booze. It's a much more generous drug. You can make friends with people. If you're drugged out of your skull, you don't know who you're talking to. I made my decision. Booze was my religion.

AP: Did you connect personally to the film's father-daughter relationship? You weren't much a part of the life of your daughter, the actress Amanda Plummer, from your first marriage.

Plummer: I suppose unconsciously. Particularly the stuff about taking each other for granted. There's a little bit of that in the film. There's a bit of I-owe-you and you-owe-me parent banter. That also exists in real life.

AP: The experience coming in to replace Kevin Spacey in "All the Money in the World" must have been head-spinning. You were nominated for a Golden Globe before ...

Plummer: It was finished! Just for remembering my lines I get an award? I also had fun, believe it or not. Ridley (Scott), I always wanted to work with him. So I thought it was a terrific opportunity. I said yes and he made it so comfortable for me. They all came back and we had to do the whole thing over again. The cameras were ready at 6 a.m. They flew us everywhere private, thank God.

AP: Did you have any doubt that you could work so quickly?

Plummer: No, I was just hopeful that at my age, my memory would serve me. Because I had to learn my lines very quickly and I thought, "Oh, Christ, am I going to be able to hold on to this?" But that's because of years in theater. You're trained to be in an emergency like that. The whole theatrical experience is an emergency.

AP: Since then, whenever scandal befalls another performer, it's become a regular joke that you should substitute in.

Plummer: It's terribly funny. (Chuckling.) I think it's hilarious. The latest one was "Roseanne." I thought: What the hell? That was a bit far-reaching. But it tickled me pink.

AP: Are you encouraged by what the #MeToo movement has done for women in the movie business?

Plummer: It's going to take time because there's still so many, hundreds and hundreds, of the old-school tie, the old-club men that still, even now in modern times, have inherited this bigotry, this superiority, this "my little woman." It's great, though, that the fight is on. Long before this happened, my wife and I both thought there should be a woman president. And it doesn't have anything to do with Hillary Clinton. Because it's time for a woman. We've seen what happens. Men go hysterical. Women are far stronger and would be able to run a country with less temperament.

AP: You came up at time when the actor, onstage and on- screen, was supreme. What do you think digital-effects heavy blockbusters have done to acting?

Plummer: This whole new wave of young studs who look great against the green screen, they're at the mercy of all that. It's at the mercy of phony crocodiles and dragons. Technically it's simply wonderful what goes on now. I'm in love with the dragon lady (Emilia Clarke on "Game of Thrones"), for example. I think she's great. And the other night I replayed Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings." Those are directorial triumphs and the actors are along for the trip. On stage, it's a different thing but that doesn't exist anymore. Somebody said, "Are you going to the Tonys?" I said no because the Tonys are a funny thing now. It's all musicals and not particularly terrific musicals. Some are, some not. But that's it. What's happened to the legitimate theater, the writing? Where's all that now? I'm not interested anymore. It's because English is not the first language. We're now playing to a huge foreign audience.

'Incredibles 2' crushes animation record with $180 million

AP
This image released by Disney Pixar shows a scene from "Incredibles 2," in theaters on June 15.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The combined powers of superheroes, the Pixar brand and a draught of family-friendly films helped "Incredibles 2" become the best animated opening of all time, the biggest PG-rated launch ever and the 8th highest film launch overall.

Disney estimated Sunday that the film earned $180 million in its first weekend in North American theaters—far surpassing industry analysts' loftiest expectations which had the film pegged for a $120 to $140 million debut.

The previous animation record-holder was another Pixar sequel, "Finding Dory," which had a $135 million launch in 2016. It was Disney's live-action "Beauty and the Beast" that held the record for a PG debut with $174.8 million in 2017.

"You don't get to this level of opening without appealing to everyone whether you're a fan of animation, superheroes or just out to have a good time and want to see a good movie," said Cathleen Taff, the head of distribution for Walt Disney Studios. "We had a film that had something for all ages."

According to Disney, adults made up 31 percent of the audience, families accounted for 57 percent and teens 11 percent.

"Incredibles 2" comes 14 years after "The Incredibles," which at the time boasted one of the biggest animated openings ever, and picks up right where the first film left off with the superhero family. Brad Bird returned to write and direct the sequel, which has been overwhelmingly well-received by both critics and audiences.

"This is one of the biggest over-performances I've ever seen," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "To over-perform by $40 million means everyone underestimated the power of animation to draw huge audiences."

"Incredibles 2" is also the second biggest ever June debut, behind only "Jurassic World" ($208.8 million), which has its own sequel preparing to take a bite out of the box office when its opens in North America next weekend.

It knocked "Ocean's 8" to a distant second in its second weekend in theaters with $19.6 million. "Ocean's 8" still managed to outdo the non-"Incredibles" newcomers, like the R-rated comedy "Tag," also a Warner Bros. release, which opened in third place with $14.6 million.

"Solo: A Star Wars Story," fell to fourth place with $9.1 million and "Deadpool 2" rounded out the top five with an additional $8.8 million.

Sony's "Superfly" remake landed in seventh place in its first weekend with $6.3 million, and Vertical Entertainment's "Gotti," starring John Travolta, opened outside of the top 10. Playing in 503 locations, the long-delayed film which boasts a 0 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, took in $1.7 million.

After a slow early June, the box office overall is now running around 6 percent ahead of where it was last year and will likely continue that growth next weekend when "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" launches stateside.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Incredibles 2,**" $180 million ($51.5 million international).
2. **"Ocean's 8,"** $19.6 million ($19.3 million international).
3. **"Tag,"** $14.6 million ($1.4 million international).
4. **"Solo: A Star Wars Story,"** $9.1 million ($5.2 million international).
5. **"Deadpool 2,"** $8.8 million ($9.8 million international).
6. **"Hereditary,"** $7 million ($5.7 million international).
7. **"Superfly,"** $6.3 million.
8. **"Avengers: Infinity War,"** $5.3 million ($3.1 million international).
9. **"Adrift,"** $2.1 million ($453,000 international).
10. **"Book Club,"** $1.9 million ($730,000 international).

Nicole Kidman, Amazon sign TV, movie production deal

Kidman

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Amazon Studios says it's signed a deal with Nicole Kidman and her production company for TV and movie projects.

Under the "first-look" deal, Amazon and Kidman's Blossom Films will develop original series for Amazon Prime Video and big-screen films.

In a statement Thursday, Amazon Studios head Jennifer Salke called Kidman "a force of nature" as an actress and a producer.

Blossom Films, founded by Kidman and Per Saari, produced the Emmy-winning series "Big Little Lies" for HBO.

Amazon is striking deals with other prominent Hollywood figures, including "Get Out" filmmaker Jordan Peele.

Another major streaming service, Netflix, has landed top producers Ryan Murphy ("American Horror Story") and Shonda Rhimes ("Scandal").

'Candid' Jackie Chan memoir coming in November

NEW YORK (AP) — Jackie Chan is ready to share more stories about his amazing life and career. The star of blockbusters such as "Rush Hour" and "Kung Fu Panda" has a memoir coming out in November.

Gallery Books told The Associated Press on Thursday that "Never Grow Up" is a "candid" account of everything from his youth with the China Drama Academy to his "numerous" near-death experiences on and off camera.

The 64-year-old Chan will also write about making movies in Hong Kong and Hollywood and of his imperfections as a family man, according to Gallery, a Simon & Schuster imprint.

Chan's other films include a remake of "The Karate Kid" and the "Police Story" series. His previous books include "I Am Jackie Chan: My Life in Action," a memoir published in 1998.

Cancer patient discusses too much detail in public

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend has been battling cervical cancer. Her condition has left her dependent on a colostomy bag. She's not shy about discussing it on Facebook and in public, where she speaks loudly. I have tried to be understanding and supportive, but there are limits.

My problem is, she's hell-bent on making sure I see this colostomy bag by frequently checking to see if it's full, even after returning from the bathroom where I'm certain she checked it. More recently, we were at a restaurant and she exposed her bag in full view of others while they were eating. (The bag was full!)

Not only was it disgusting, it's also unhygienic should the bag become disconnected or rupture. Am I insensitive for thinking this is inappropriate and that she should excuse herself to go to the bathroom?

NAUSEATED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR NAUSEATED: No, I don't think you are insensitive. While a colostomy bag is nothing to be ashamed of, because it involves human waste, decorum dictates that it be kept away from the dining table. Have a frank talk with your friend, tell her her behavior is inappropriate, and ask her not to do it in front of you.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up in the generation where if you were gay and you came "out of the closet," as it was called, you were not accepted in the community. A lot has changed since then. However, when it hits close to home, it's difficult for me to deal with.

My 19-year-old daughter told me three years ago that she's gay. At first I thought she was going through a phase and she was trying to find herself. Now she's dating girls her age, and I'm having a difficult time accepting it. Can you help me?

STRUGGLING MOTHER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR STRUGGLING: Be glad we're not living in the bad old days because the ones we're living in are healthier for everyone. Start by congratulating yourself for having raised a daughter who is honest about her feelings and determined to live her life authentically. While some things may be different than you fantasized when she was little, it does not mean she won't be happy, successful and possibly a parent, if she wishes. Support her as she navigates through her journey in life. If you do, you—and she—will be fine.

DEAR ABBY: During the last year, a female friend of mine has started suggesting that she wants more from our relationship than just a friendship. She has had a history of doing this whenever she becomes friends with a guy.

When she started sending me pictures that became more and more suggestive, I decided to distance myself from her. But in the last month, she has been getting increasingly bold with her advances. How do I handle this without hurting her?

FRIEND AND NOTHING MORE IN IOWA

DEAR FRIEND: Tell your friend you like her, but what she has been doing is making you increasingly uncomfortable. Be direct about saying you are not interested in a sexual relationship with her. Then, if she persists, continue to distance yourself from her.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

AHHH, WHAT A DAY!
UP AT DAWN! FRESH AIR! TRANQUILITY! NO DEMANDS, NO PHONES, NO PRESSURE!
THE WHOLE DAY IS ONE'S OWN! ISN'T THIS GREAT? ISN'T THIS THE LIFE?
SPACEMAN SPIFF, A PRISONER ON THE ZOG SLAVE GALLEY, PLANS HIS DARING OVERBOARD ESCAPE!
AHH, WHAT A DAY!

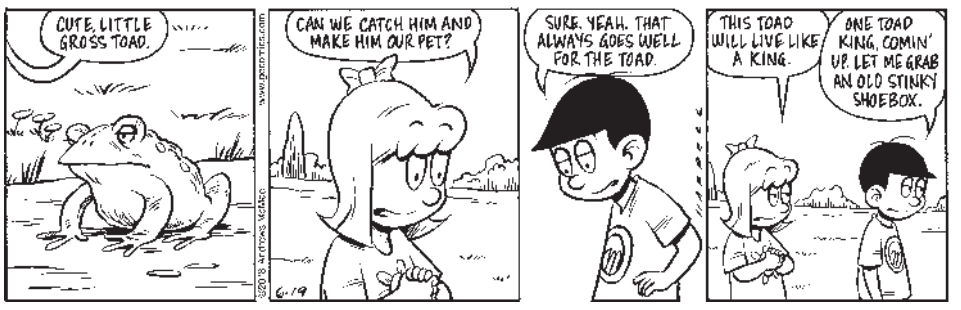
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY, YOU'RE FOR-TY...HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOOOOO YOOOOU!
AND MA-NY MOOOOORE
JIM DAVIS 6-19

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CUTE LITTLE GROSS TOAD.
CAN WE CATCH HIM AND MAKE HIM OUR PET?
SURE. YEAH. THAT ALWAYS GOES WELL FOR THE TOAD.
THIS TOAD WILL LIVE LIKE A KING.
ONE TOAD KING, COMIN' UP. LET ME GRAB AN OLD STINKY SHOEBOX.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

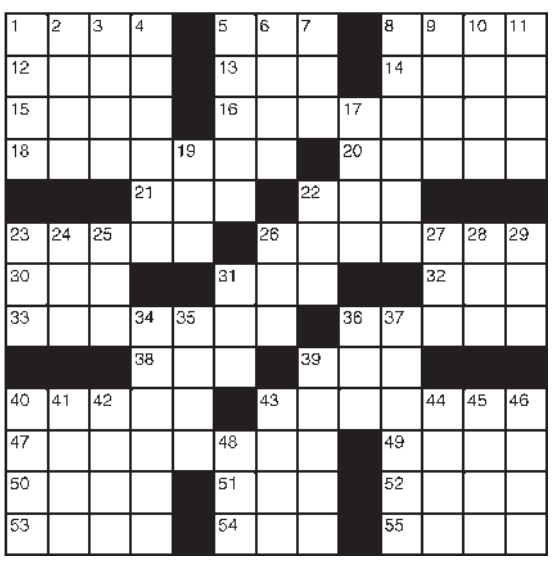
ACROSS
1 Nonsense
5 Prattle
8 A deadly sin
12 Mayberry moppet
13 Yalie
14 Actress Fisher
15 Tosses in
16 "Ta-ta!"
18 Foot, in slang
20 Caravan stops
21 Chow down
22 Govt. health org.
23 Boat to Staten Island
26 Not fast enough
30 In the past
31 Brooch
32 Before
33 "Awesome!"
36 Decree
38 Jungfrau, for one
39 Genetic letters
40 Burn with steam
43 Treated to dinner, say
47 Backyard structure
49 Hotel chain
50 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
51 "Entourage" role
52 Shadow
53 Tavern order
54 Cacophony
55 Museo display

DOWN
1 Capricorn
2 High hairstyle
3 Rover's pal
4 Avuncular Addams
5 "Understand?"
6 Lotion additive
7 Life story
8 Fragrant flowers
9 Exploits
10 — gin fizz
11 New Mexico resort
17 Nitwit
19 Utter
22 Swindle
23 Corpulent
24 Id counterpart
25 Aussie hopper
26 Up to
27 Floral garland
28 Tolkien monster
29 Drench
31 Soda
34 Square dance leader
35 Early automaker
36 Rock's Brian
37 Sioux people
39 "The Thinker" sculptor
40 Wild guess
41 Apple center
42 First-rate
43 Actress Hatcher
44 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
45 Squad
46 Scrabble piece
48 Owned

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	A	S	S	■	B	U	C	■	A	G	E	E
■	T	C	H	■	I	R	E	■	T	O	I	N
R	O	A	R	■	K	N	O	T	H	O	L	E
■	M	B	I	3	E	■	S	W	E	D	E	N
■	■	■	N	A	L	A	■	I	N	ſ	■	■
S	I	N	K	H	O	L	E	■	S	O	B	S
A	D	A	■	S	C	A	M	P	■	G	E	E
W	A	T	T	■	K	N	E	E	H	O	L	E
■	■	I	R	A	■	S	R	T	A	■	■	■
G	R	O	U	C	H	■	G	A	N	D	F	R
N	I	N	E	H	O	L	E	■	K	I	L	O
A	L	A	S	■	N	I	N	■	E	R	A	S
W	E	L	I	■	K	I	I	■	H	E	N	E

Yesterday's answer 6-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Macklemore, 35; Zoe Saldana, 40; Jean Dujardin, 46; Paula Abdul, 56.

Happy Birthday: Domestic changes are favored, but make sure you have the required licenses and documentation before you begin. Do as much of the work yourself as you can to avoid going over the budget. Practical choices will be necessary if you don't want to end up in a financial quandary. Legal and health issues should not be ignored. Put a strategy in place and follow through. Your numbers are 1, 13, 20, 24, 32, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A practical approach to work and dealing with your peers will help you avoid being viewed as uncooperative. A friendly suggestion is a far better way to bring about positive change. Personal improvement is in your best interest. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Aim to stabilize, not disrupt your life. Learn, share and create situations that will contribute to a stellar reputation and support from your friends, family and peers. Learn from experience and study a change thoroughly before you follow through. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Alter your living arrangements or put more energy into professional gain. Take pride in your appearance; make fitness and health a priority. Don't listen to people selling products that offer the impossible. Be discreet when dealing with emotional situations. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Treat important relationships with warmth and compassion. Listen attentively, offer suggestions and make decisions based on what you would do if faced with a similar problem. Positive input will be appreciated and build a stronger bond. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Unexpected changes should not send you down a path that can make matters worse. Alter only what needs to be dealt with, not what others are prompting you to change. Listen to what's being said, but avoid hasty decisions. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't procrastinate when you should be moving forward with confidence and speed. What you accomplish today will bring about positive change to the way you do things and the people you associate with. A day trip will lead to an interesting prospect. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Reflect on what's happened and what you can learn from experience. Understanding what others need or want will help you deal with those looking for more than what you are able to offer. Offer hands-on help, not cash. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your mind wander; you'll come up with a better way to deal with a challenge you face. Choose to use your intelligence over brawn to resolve issues. An associate from your past should be kept at a distance. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change others. If someone tries to manipulate you, walk away. Personal growth should be a priority. Don't take a risk with your money or your health. An emotional matter will lead to uncertainty. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be sure before you initiate change. What you do will affect the people around you and should be thought through carefully before you proceed. A discussion you have with a partner or colleague will lead to positive and profitable gains. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll crave change, but before you begin, make sure you don't take on more than you can handle. Concentrate on getting along with others if you want to enlist the help needed to make your plans come true. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A money-making idea will intrigue you. Consider the pros and cons and discuss the possibilities before you get involved in a joint venture. Any uncertainty should be a sign that you are better off moving forward alone. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, open-minded and original. You are proactive and unpredictable. *(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	6	4	7	2		
	1		9		8		
1		2		4		7	
6	9				4	1	
2		9		6		5	
	8		7		9		
	7	4	8	3	5		

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	5	4	9	2	8	7	6	1
1	2	8	4	6	7	9	5	3
6	7	9	1	5	3	8	2	4
9	8	5	3	1	4	2	7	6
2	3	7	6	9	5	1	4	8
4	1	6	8	7	2	5	3	9
5	4	3	2	8	9	6	1	7
7	9	1	5	4	6	3	8	2
8	6	2	7	3	1	4	9	5

Difficulty Level ★ 5/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

UNWANTED EMAILS Solution: 11 letters

P	U	E	K	Y	N	E	D	E	G	R	E	E	S	E
O	N	V	S	N	O	A	E	S	A	R	E	T	G	M
T	D	O	E	L	I	F	U	I	A	V	R	N	C	A
S	A	M	H	L	T	L	D	W	I	O	A	E	A	G
S	E	E	Y	O	O	E	T	E	J	R	D	S	M	N
A	R	R	P	T	M	F	C	A	T	R	E	R	P	I
O	N	E	S	E	O	E	N	S	A	B	V	E	A	S
N	U	O	F	S	R	S	D	I	F	Y	O	T	I	I
L	P	S	N	F	P	A	L	I	L	N	M	T	G	T
I	E	O	S	Y	O	I	R	T	I	C	E	E	N	R
N	T	C	W	L	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	L	S	E
E	A	A	N	A	W	O	A	Ⓙ	M	A	P	S	R	V
M	R	W	F	A	C	C	Ⓤ	N	K	N	O	W	N	D
E	O	N	L	I	C	Ⓝ	B	S	I	Z	E	E	E	A
D	U	L	E	A	Ⓚ	S	I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Astronomers

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EDIT

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Find today's solution in classified section

Rays beat Yankees for first time this season

NEW YORK (AP)—Tampa Bay Rays manager Kevin Cash has had to defend his strategy using relievers as starters time and time again.

At least this time, the defense came after the formula led his team to a victory.

Wilmer Font held the high-scoring Yankees in check and the Rays stopped New York 3-1 Sunday to avoid a four-game sweep.

"We're doing everything we can (and) what we think is right to win games," Cash said. "When we win, yeah, we like it. When we lose, it's grueling."

In his third start of the season, Font turned in his best performance of the year in any role, allowing just one run in 4 2/3 innings with five strikeouts. The right-hander, who also has eight relief appearances, matched a career-high with 74 pitches.

Tampa Bay, which has been hurt by injuries to its rotation, employed a reliever to open for the 15th time in 29 games. Entering the game, relievers working as starters had allowed 13 earned runs in 18 innings.

"Today he gave us a huge boost," Cash said of the 28-year old right-hander. "He probably got a little deeper in the game than what we even anticipated."

Matt Duffy drove in two runs with a second-inning single for his first multi-RBI game in over a month. The infielder, who missed 2017 while undergoing two Achilles surgeries, is hitting .352 (25 for 71) with seven RBI over his last 18 contests.

"I typically don't see CC too well," Duffy said. "That wasn't the greatest pitch to hit, but when you're going well, those seem to fall."

Carlos Gomez had an RBI double as Tampa Bay scored all three runs in the second against CC Sabathia (4-2). The left-hander pitched into the eighth inning for the first time this season and struck out 10 for just the second time since the start of 2014.

"I just tried to be really aggressive because they were aggressive," Sabathia said.

Tampa Bay defeated New York for the first time this season. The Yankees opened the season with five straight wins, outscoring the Rays 31-10 over the games, and was trying for a four-game sweep. The Rays are 5-18 in their last 23 games at Yankee Stadium.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Jake Bauers (9) is called safe at third base with a triple ahead of a tag attempt by New York Yankees third baseman Miguel Andujar during the ninth inning of a baseball game on Sunday, June 17, 2018, in New York.

Astros 7, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Carlos Correa and the Houston Astros won their 11th straight game, finishing off a 10-0 trip by rallying past the Royals.

The World Series champion Astros swept their swing through Texas, Oakland and Kansas City, outscoring opponents 74-35. Last season, Houston had an 11-game winning streak end in Kansas City. This time, the Astros trailed 4-3 in the eighth inning before Correa led off with a tying homer. Evan Gattis, who had three hits, then put them ahead during a three-run burst.

Correa has three home runs and eight RBI in six games after missing four games with discomfort in his right side. He had a first-inning single and added a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Gattis hit .366 with five home runs and 19 RBI on the Astros' trip. He singled home Yuli Gurriel in the eighth, and Marvin Gonzalez added an RBI single in the inning.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 0

In St. Louis, Jack Flaherty and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, Matt Carpenter homered and St. Louis snapped a season-high four-game skid.

Flaherty allowed just two hits while striking out seven in five innings, but he walked three and hit two batters and was pulled after throwing 97 pitches.

John Brebbia (1-1) worked around two hits in a scoreless sixth inning to earn his first major league win. Austin Gomber, Jordan Hicks and Bud Norris each pitched a hitless inning to finish the shutout and prevent the Cubs from getting their first series sweep in St. Louis since Sept. 13-15, 2010.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Brandon Nimmo and Asdrubal Cabrera homered off Brad Boxberger in a four-run ninth inning and New York rallied to beat Arizona.

The Diamondbacks led 3-1 entering the ninth and Boxberger (1-3), with his third blown save in 20 tries, struck out the first two batters.

Jose Reyes reached on a bunt single and scored on Jose Bautista's pinch-hit double to cut the lead to 3-1. Nimmo, who doubled and scored in the first inning, followed with a two-run shot to right field to put New York ahead 4-3 and Cabrera's solo shot made it 5-3.

Rangers 13, Rockies 12

In Arlington, Jose Trevino blooped a two-run single, capping a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent Texas past Colorado.

Rockies closer Wade Davis (0-2) retired only one batter while walking four and allowing singles to Rougned Odor and Trevino. A rookie catcher, Trevino entered his third major league game in the top of the ninth. He is 2 for 8 for Texas, including a tying single in Saturday's 5-2 victory.

Red Sox 9, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Rafael Devers, Jackie Bradley Jr., and Xander Bogaerts homered to help Boston rout Seattle.

Devers' 11th homer of the season capped a five-run, two-out rally in the third against Seattle starter Mike Leake (7-4).

The Red Sox pulled away in the seventh against right-handed reliever Chasen Bradford, who gave up three runs and two homers while getting two outs.

Phillies 10, Brewers 9

In Milwaukee, Maikel Franco homered and drove in four runs and Philadelphia held off Milwaukee's ninth-inning rally.

Rhys Hoskins and Odubel Herrera also homered to help the Phillies took two of three from Milwaukee. The Brewers are tied with Atlanta for the best record in the NL.

Milwaukee trailed 10-5 going into the ninth. Jesus Aguilar led off with a home run and Eric Thames hit his second homer of the game, a three-run shot with two outs off Hector Neris. Christian Yelich followed with a drive to center and Herrera made a leaping catch for the final out, giving Jake Thompson the save.

Blue Jays 8, Nationals 6

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernandez and Yangervis Solarte hit consecutive homers in the eighth inning, and Toronto beat Washington to complete a three-game sweep.

The game was tied at 6 before Hernandez and Solarte connected against Ryan Madson (1-3). Hernandez hit his 12th homer and Solarte belted his team-leading 15th.

Giants 4, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Nick Hundley and Brandon Belt hit two-run home runs and Chris Stratton pitched six solid innings to help San Francisco Giants avoid a three-game sweep at Los Angeles.

Hundley got the Giants going with a homer in the first inning, halfway up the pavilion seats in left field for his eighth of the season. Belt followed two innings later with his 12th home run and first since returning from an appendectomy on June 1.

Angels 6, Athletics 5, 11 innings

In Oakland, Jonathan Lucroy hit an RBI single off the center-field wall in the 11th inning in Oakland's comeback victory over Los Angeles.

The A's rallied for two runs in the ninth to tie it at 5, then took advantage of control problems by a pair of Angels relievers to win.

Jed Lowrie led off the 11th with a single and Jake Jewell (0-1) hit Khris Davis with a pitch. After Matt Olson flied, Eduardo Paredes replaced Jewell and walked Mark Canha to load the bases.

Tigers 3, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Nicholas Castellanos homered and Blaine Hardy pitched one-run ball into the sixth, leading Detroit past Chicago for its fifth straight win.

Jose Iglesias added an RBI single to help Detroit improve to 8-1 against the White Sox this season, including 6-0 at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Braves 4, Padres 1

In Atlanta, Julio Teheran pitched six no-hit innings before being pulled from his first start since coming off the disabled list, and Atlanta relievers gave up six hits in the win over San Diego.

The Braves' bid for a combined no-hitter ended with one out in the seventh when Shane Carle allowed a single to Cory Spangenberg. Freddy Galvis added another single before Carle pitched out of the jam.

Indians 4, Twins 1

In Cleveland, Shane Bieber pitched one-run ball into the sixth inning in his first major league win, helping Cleveland beat Minnesota.

Bieber (1-0) scattered 10 hits and struck out seven in 5 2/3 innings in his second career start. The rookie right-hander was recalled from Triple-A Columbus earlier in the day when Carlos Carrasco went on the 10-day disabled list with a bruised right elbow.

Orioles 10, Marlins 4

In Baltimore, Jace Peterson and Mark Trumbo homered, and Baltimore beat Miami to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Baltimore also ended a string of 11 straight losses at home, which tied a club record. The Orioles' last win at Camden Yards was May 13 against Tampa Bay.

Reds 8, Pirates 6

In Pittsburgh Eugenio Suarez homered in the second straight game and Joey Votto celebrated his 1,500th major league contest by going 2 for 4 with two RBI in Cincinnati's victory over Pittsburgh.

Suarez hit a two-run shot off Joe Musgrove (2-2) in the fourth. Votto hit a drive to deep right-center the fifth to chase Musgrove and give the Reds the cushion they would need to beat the Pirates for just the second time in seven tries at PNC Park this season.

Koepka first US Open repeat winner in 29 years

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Brooks Koepka has the game to win a U.S. Open on any course.

One year after Koepka overpowered the wide fairways of Erin Hills in a U.S. Open remembered for l scoring, he navigated his way through the brutal conditio of Shinnecock Hill closed with a 2-u 68 to become t first repeat champi in 29 years.

Curtis Strange, the last player to go back-to-back in this major, watched the entire final round Sunday as the Fox Sports reporter on the ground, and they shared a brief hug off the 18th green after Koepka tapped in for bogey and a one-shot victory.

Koepka captured his second major Sunday. It would not have been possible without his 72 on Saturday in conditions so severe the last 45 players to tee off in the third round didn't break par. The USGA conceded the course was over the top and pledged to get it right for the final round.

No one took advantage like Tommy Fleetwood, who made eight birdies — none of the two par 5s—and became the sixth player to shoot 63 in the U.S. Open. That got him within one shot of Koepka, who still had 11 holes to play. Fleetwood had to settle for the silver medal.

Koepka, with a performance and a demeanor reminiscent of Retief Goosen winning at Shinnecock Hills in 2004, began the back nine with three pivotal putts — one for birdie, one for bogey, one for par.

He seized control with a wedge to 3 1/2 feet for birdie on the par-5 16th for a two-shot lead, and he never flinched until it no longer mattered. Koepka pulled his approach to the 18th off the grandstand, pitched on to about 12 feet and two-putted for a bogey.

He finished at 1-over 281, 13 shots higher than his winning score at Erin Hills last year.

It was the first time since 2013 at Merion that no one broke par in the U.S. Open.

Meanwhile, Dustin Johnson had a four-stroke lead after 36 holes and was still in striking distance heading onto the back nine in the final round of the U.S. Open.

Instead of making a move, he lost ground.

The 2016 champion three-putted three times on the back nine at Shinnecock Hills, shooting an even-par 70 on Sunday to finish third, two strokes back.

"When we're all done, he's going to win another one," Koepka said. "I mean, we all know that. ... He's one of the best to ever play the game."

After winning at Oakmont, Johnson missed the cut at Erin Hills last year. Unable to defend his title over the weekend, he called Koepka to give him advice on how to win the tournament.

This year in the Hamptons, the two players worked out together before each of the last two rounds but kept things professional from tee to green.

"We talked a lot more when we worked out than when we were on the golf course," Koepka said. "I love Dustin. He's one of my best friends. To play alongside him, it was fun today. I was excited about it. I figured he would be the guy to beat.

"But I didn't talk to him today," Koepka said. "We're both competitive. We both know we're trying to beat each other and trying to win a golf tournament, trying to win a major. There's a little bit of stress."

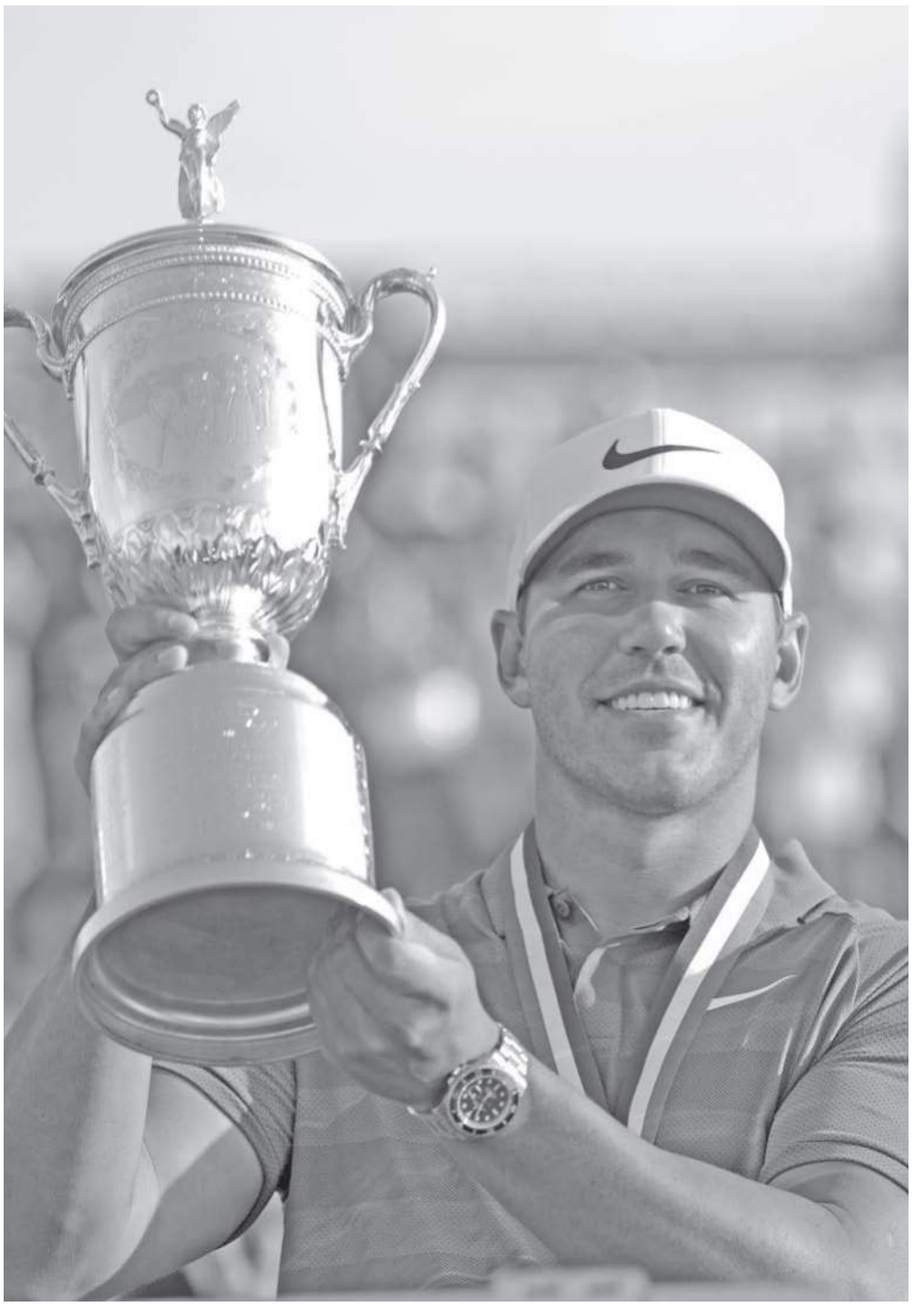
Koepka said the two talked about the break of the green on No. 3 but otherwise didn't chat during the round. Two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange, who was walking with the group as part of the broadcasting crew, said he noticed that the two maintained their distance.

"But that's the way it's supposed to be," he said. "If they're best buddies, that's (what's) standing between me and the trophy. You don't care much for them for 4+ hours."

The No. 1 player in the world, Johnson was the only one to break par in each of the first two rounds, and after 36 holes he seemed like one of the biggest obstacles to Koepka's chances of a repeat. No one had taken a four-stroke lead into the weekend and failed to win since Tom McNamara suffered a heat stroke on the 68th hole in 1909.

But Johnson shot 77 in the third round, with a bogey on the final hole to surrender sole possession of the lead. He entered the final day in a four-way tie at 3 over and was still only one stroke behind Koepka when they made the turn.

Then Johnson missed a 4-foot par putt on No. 11. And a 7-foot par putt on No. 14. He still had a chance to catch Koepka as he lined up a 62-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th hole, but he wound up three-putting for bogey.



AP
Brooks Koepka holds up the Golf Champion Trophy after winning the U.S. Open Golf Championship, Sunday, June 17, 2018, in Southampton, N.Y.

Federer reclaims No. 1 ranking from Nadal

STUTTGART, Germany (AP)—Roger Federer celebrated returning to the top of the world rankings by defeating Milos Raonic in the final of the Stuttgart Open on Sunday and lifting the 98th tour-level title of his garlanded career.

The 36-year-old, who by reaching the final had already guaranteed his return to world No.1, supplanting Rafael Nadal when the new rankings are released on Monday, continued his domination over the Canadian with a 6-4 7-6(3) victory.

Federer's 78-minute win, sealing his first Stuttgart triumph, was the perfect tonic for the Swiss in the build-up to defending his Wimbledon crown, having extended his unbeaten 12-month sequence in grasscourt matches to 16.

"It's a great comeback for me," said Federer, who was playing his first tournament after an 11-week break, having sidestepped the entire claycourt season.

"I'm really happy. I thought it was a good final from my side. I think I played very well throughout the tournament, actually, having not played for a while.

"Maybe I was a little bit better on the bigger points. Of course I'm so happy to have won here, finally, in Stuttgart."

Federer, who beat Raonic en route to winning Wimbledon last year, broke his opponent's powerful serve just once in the third game—but that was a major feat in itself as the Canadian had entered the final having won all 41 of his service games.

With his own delivery proving unbreachable—he dropped serve only twice all week —it was enough for Federer to claim the first set.

Cavaliers have made calls to Spurs about Leonard

CLEVELAND— We still don't know where San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard will end up playing at the start of the 2018-2019 NBA season.

The former NBA Finals MVP reportedly wants to head to Los Angeles, apparently to play for the Lakers. However, there are other teams in the mix for Leonard, and the Spurs themselves want to try to keep him and mend the relationship.

One intriguing team for Leonard is the Cleveland Cavaliers, who reportedly have made calls to San Antonio about landing their star. According to Cleveland.com writer Terry Pluto, the Cavs have made it known they are interested in Leonard.

It's not clear whether that call was simple due diligence, a whack at trying to entice LeBron James to stay, or a long shot way to replace James if he decides to leave this summer.

The Cavaliers are hilariously over the cap for next season, and don't have much to offer the Spurs that they'd likely want. The best player on the roster that helps match most of Leonard's salary is Kevin Love, who already plays the position occupied by LaMarcus Aldridge.

Cleveland does have the No. 8 overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft, but that's not enough to snag Leonard. If the Cavaliers had a realistic shot at getting Leonard, it would likely need to be in the form of a three-team deal with another party that has a need for Love.

NBA trades can be weird, and this summer is wrapping up to be a special one. However, Cleveland grabbing Leonard from San Antonio is still a long shot.

Meanwhile, though the Spurs star wants the Lakers, the Clippers are expected to be involved in the rumors as well. As a former MVP candidate and Defensive Player of The Year winner, there should be a high asking price for Leonard.

However, the Clippers and Lakers are a little hesitant go all in on Leonard. Despite his credentials, Leonard missed all but nine games of the 2017-18 season due to a nagging quad injury. When he did play, he had to frequently rest and didn't look like his usual self. The Lakers and Clippers want Leonard, but they're concerned with his health after he spent the majority of the season rehabbing.

Usually, after trade requests, there's a flurry of rumors about where a player might go and what teams are interested in that player. However, it's still a little too early in the process to expect anything substantial to appear. Especially for a player that the Spurs are probably hesitant on moving. Leonard, when healthy, is still one of the best in the league and San Antonio can still offer him a super max contract extension worth $219 million. There's no need for San Antonio to rush into trade talks with the Clippers and Lakers. Just like how there's no need for the two L.A. teams to rush into trade discussions before doing due diligence on their injury concerns.

It will be interesting to see how much Leonard's injury filled season impacts trade discussions around him. If they decide to trade Leonard then the Spurs will want the return an MVP candidate should get, but that quad injury is going to bring down his value. If the Lakers and Clippers really do have concerns about it, then are they willing to give up all their best assets for him? It's a question everybody will be asking themselves.

Last 'Silver Streak' draws over 200 runners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 200 runners joined the final Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run held last Saturday with youth athletes Leowel Cristobal and Tania Tan leading the finishers of the seven-kilometer race.

Cristobal completed the event held for the last time in honor of the former DFS Saipan president in 28:04 to earn the overall first place award. Tan was the fourth overall finisher and first in the women's division after checking in at 29:38. The two young runners received gift prizes presented by T Galleria Saipan general manager Milan Rabold and Picarro's family members, who flew in from the mainland to witness the 25th and final staging of the "Silver Streak." Former DFS Saipan official and now Hawaii-based Wolf Mojica, who helped organized the first race in 1994, was also present in last weekend's event.

"It maybe the last time we will be holding the Silver Streak, but the memories of Mr. Picarro will remain in the hearts of his DFS Saipan family. He was a well-loved member of the community as shown in the number of runners and volunteers participating in the Silver Streak every year," DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners head out to the course during last Saturday's 25th Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Leowel Cristobal, second left, and Tania Tan, right, pose with their certificates and prizes after winning last Saturday's 25th Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run. Also in the photo are the relatives of the late Picarro.

Meanwhile, other age group winners in the race that started and ended at T Galleria entrance fronting Beach Road with a turnaround point at the Quartermaster Road were Jim Takeru and Kaithlynn Chavez in the U12 age group and Stephen Bartolo and Therize Millare in the 13 to 19 division.

Rounding out the top finishers list were 20 to 29's Josh Parker and Emily Northrop; 30 to 39's Julius Mabutas and Heather Taylor; 40 to 49's Raymund Tolentino and Noriko Jim; 50 to 59's Ariel Lansangan and Sakiko Eda; and over 60's Chang Wan Jang and Fely Garcia.

CNMI

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Games in Yap. They got the monkeys off their back and are prepared to get better in their next competition," the NMA official added.

The CNMI Team, which was divided into two groups (Saipan and Tinian), combined for 10 gold medals, 16 silvers, and 18 bronzes.

"The Oceania Micronesian tournament was a good testing ground for our development team. They now know where they are at as far as their skill-level is concerned and what will it take for them to keep up with athletes from Palau, Guam, Nauru, and FSM. Overall, we're on the right path toward having a competitive team in the Micronesian Games," Rangamar added.

Meanwhile, the CNMI's U18 athletes contributed several medals to the host with Tania Tan, after winning the 3,000m last Thursday, also adding the 5,000m gold medal to her credit.

Tan clocked in at 21:49.52 in the longest race in the competition, beating Guam's Minami Cramer (23:25.73) and fellow CNMI runner Anika Snyder (25:11.01). Tan also joined the 1,500m race and got the silver after timing in at 5:39.22. Guam's Madison Packbier won the gold with her 5:35.22, while the CNMI's Therize Millare took the silver after checking in at 5:45.02.

Millare did two more races and placed second in both the 400m and 800m runs after submitting 1:05.59 and 2:38.12, respectively. Packbier topped the two events, posting 1:02.94 in the 400m run and 2:29.97 in the 800m race. The CNMI's Jerlyn Castillo got the bronze in the 800m run after registering 2:39.04.

In the U18 field events, Tyvean They, Cassandra Camacho, and Jamie Pangelinan delivered gold medals for the CNMI.

Pangelinan recorded 24.72m in the javelin to beat Guam's Theya Mendiola (19.25m) and CNMI-Tinian's Cheraline Epity (18.40m). They joined the long jump and her 4.22m bested the 4.21m of Guam's Kaeli Perez and compatriots Leani Acosta 93.73m) and Kianna Aldan (3.53m). Camacho was the lone entry in the hammer throw and registered 17.15m.

Acosta and They then teamed up with Zarinae Sapong and Castillo in handing the CNMI the bronze medal in the women's 4x100m relay. The Commonwealth quartet timed in at 55.97 seconds behind the 51.98 of Guam and 54.46 of Palau. Sapong also raced in the 200m and was ranked second behind Guam's Richelle Tugade, as the former submitted 22.77 seconds versus the latter's 27.66.

STUNNED

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Germany defeated Mexico 4-1 in last year's Confederations Cup while sporting a younger lineup.

"I believe we have a relatively young team here. The average age isn't too high," Loew said. "Last year at the Confederations Cup, it was a completely different situation. You can't compare the two."

In the second half on Sunday, Loew at least saw some more characteristic play out of his team, which kept the ball in the Mexican end for long stretches. But he also saw some skittishness under pressure.

"We had a couple of shots on goal, but somehow it seemed jinxed," Loew said. "The ball didn't go in the goal, and sometimes they were a bit too quick in finishing, did not take their time, did not keep their cool."

Milestone win

When the final whistle blew, Mexico midfielder Miguel Layun sank to his hands and knees on the turf and was embraced by his shirtless teammate Carlos Salcedo.

If Layun was overwhelmed by his team's 1-0 victory over defending World Cup champion Germany, his coach wasn't. Neither were the sombrero-clad Mexican fans who seemed to be partying nonstop on the streets of Moscow in the days leading up to Sunday's match.

In the second half, they confidently chanted "Mexico, Mexico," and "Ole, Ole, Ole" when their team had the ball, which was far less than half the time as Mexico sat back defending and weathered a furious German comeback bid.

The first half proved decisive. Coach Juan Carlos Osorio, who called it a "milestone" win, said his team executed his game plan to near perfection.

"In the first half we managed to play defensively with a great deal of intelligence. We could have scored much earlier," Osorio said. "With all respect, I think in the first half of the match that we were the superior team."

Mexico is hoping to end a streak of six straight World Cups where it has lost in the round of 16, and in a bid to end that streak Osorio added a mental coach to his staff in 2016. He has tinkered with his lineups constantly. But his plan for attacking Germany by relying on his wingers' speed didn't change.

It was one of those quick-strike artists, Hirving Lozano, who scored the lone goal, taking advantage of the room Germany and right back Joshua Kimmich gave him to run.

"We had drawn up a plan six months back or so. Due to injuries, we had to change some of our protagonists, but we always thought of having two fast players on the wing," Osorio said. "We chose Hirving, who is our fastest player.

Brazil 1, Switzerland 1

Brazil joined the host of big guns who have failed to fire in their opening World Cup game as lax defending from a corner allowed Switzerland to cancel out Philippe Coutinho's spectacular curling strike and grab a draw.

The five-times world champions took a deserved lead midway through the first half in the Group E game when Coutinho's irresistible long-distance shot cannoned in off the far post, but failed to build on their advantage.

The highly organized Swiss hit back early in the second period from one of their few chances as Brazil's Casemiro and Miranda switched off and the unmarked Steven Zuber barely had to leave his feet to nod in Xherdan Shaqiri's whipped corner.

Brazil went all out in pursuit of a winner and came close to finding it but had to settle for a point and joined fellow tournament favorites Germany, Spain and Argentina in failing to win their first game.

Neymar's flamboyant blond 'spaghetti' haircut certainly caught the eye although he only gave glimpses of the spectacular dribbles and plays he is renowned for.

Instead, Brazil's second most expensive player, Coutinho, constantly found right winger Willian Borges da Silva and drifting striker Gabriel Jesus with sweeping passes although Switzerland managed to deal with the threat.

Serbia 1, Costa Rica 0

After reaching lofty heights in the 2014 World Cup, Costa Rica was dumped back down to earth by a tough Serbia in the 2018 edition on Sunday, their ageing squad unable to repeat their heroics of Brazil in Russia.

The Ticos started brightly enough in the Group E opening match in Samara. But they squandered early chances and Serbia steadily began to impose themselves on the game.

After a superb free kick by captain Aleksandar Kolarov gave Serbia the lead in the 56th minute, Costa Rica's chances of again making an impact in the tournament started looking slim.

They now face Brazil, who are among the favorites, in St. Petersburg on June 22 and so may already have checked in online for their flight home by the time they take on a strong Switzerland side in their final group match.

FALCONS

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score anew at the top of the fifth with the based loaded, again. However, Nakamura, struck out Heath Camacho to end the inning. Nakamura went on to fan five more batters and keep the Braves hitless.

Besides his steady performance on the mound, Nakamura also contributed on offense, scoring one run after going 2-for-3 at bat. Teregeyo was 1-for-2 and also made one run and one RBI. Justin Agulto added two runs, while J.P. Castro and Ross Arreda logged one each off a passed ball and C.J. Castro's single, respectively. Jay Lifoifoi had a bunt to drive Justin Magofna in.

In the second semis game, pitchers Keoni Serrano and Lucio Aldan threw a two-hitter to bring the Falcons to the finale.

Serrano started out for the Falcons and gave up only a double (to Patrick Celis in the second inning) in the 5.2 innings he worked the mound. Celis was able to make it to third based, while Eliray Castro advanced to second off a passed ball, but the two runners were left stranded after Serrano fanned Justin Aaron for the third out. Serrano went on to collect 11 strikeouts.

The Falcons ace held the Chiefs scoreless in the first four innings before Kianna Camacho put the losing squad on the board at the top off the fifth after making it home off the former's booboo at third base. Camacho's run, however, failed to spark a Chiefs' comeback, as the Falcons forced their opponents to 1-2-3 in the last two innings.

Earlier in the first two innings, the Falcons scored three runs—one from Sandy Kani in the first inning off a passed ball and two in the second from Aldan's run off the Chiefs' error at home plate and Tasei Desebel's sacrifice fly. The Falcons fourth and last run came at the bottom off the fifth, courtesy of Aldan's single that drove in Serrano.

3rd President's Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire Football Club 2, left, and Matansa FC players nudge each other as they run after the ball during their boys U15 /girls U16 game in the 3rd President's Cup held early this month at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Matansa FC's Paula Angela Bernardo, left, tries to keep pace with two Shirley's FC players during their co-ed U9 division match.

TanHoldings' Kaithlynn Chavez, right, dribbles away from the defense of a Matansa player.

A TanHoldings FC player, center, battles two Kanoa FC players for the ball.

A Shirley's FC player jumps off the defense of a Kanoa FC player to chase the ball.

A Shirley's FC goalie attempts to catch the ball during their game against Kanoa.

Kanoa FC's Khristelle Itaas, left, and Paire 1's Rintaro Miyawaki are in a footrace for the possession.

TanHoldings FC players celebrate a win in the penalty shootout against Matansa during their boys U15 /girls U16 game.

Rays beat Yankees for first time this season

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Falcons vs Comets 1 in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons and Comets 1 held strong on defense to eliminate their respective opponents and set up their title showdown in the Junior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Comets 1 tamed the Braves, 7-1, last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to take the first final seat, while the Falcons also prevailed in a defense-oriented semis match against the Chiefs, 4-1, to earn the second and final ticket to the championship game. The Falcons and Comets 1 will go for all the marbles this Sunday at 9am.

In the first semis match, the Comets 1's Reid Teregeyo and Bing Nakamura combined for a no-hitter in seven innings to hold the Braves to one run. Teregeyo tossed for 4.3 innings and struck out 11 batters. With Teregeyo on the mound, the Braves were forced to a 1-2-3 in the second and fourth inning. Then in the third inning, with the bases loaded, Teregeyo fanned two to break the Braves' heart. The Braves got their lone run at the top of the first inning with Antonio Norita reaching off a Comets 1's error at second base.

The Braves had a chance to

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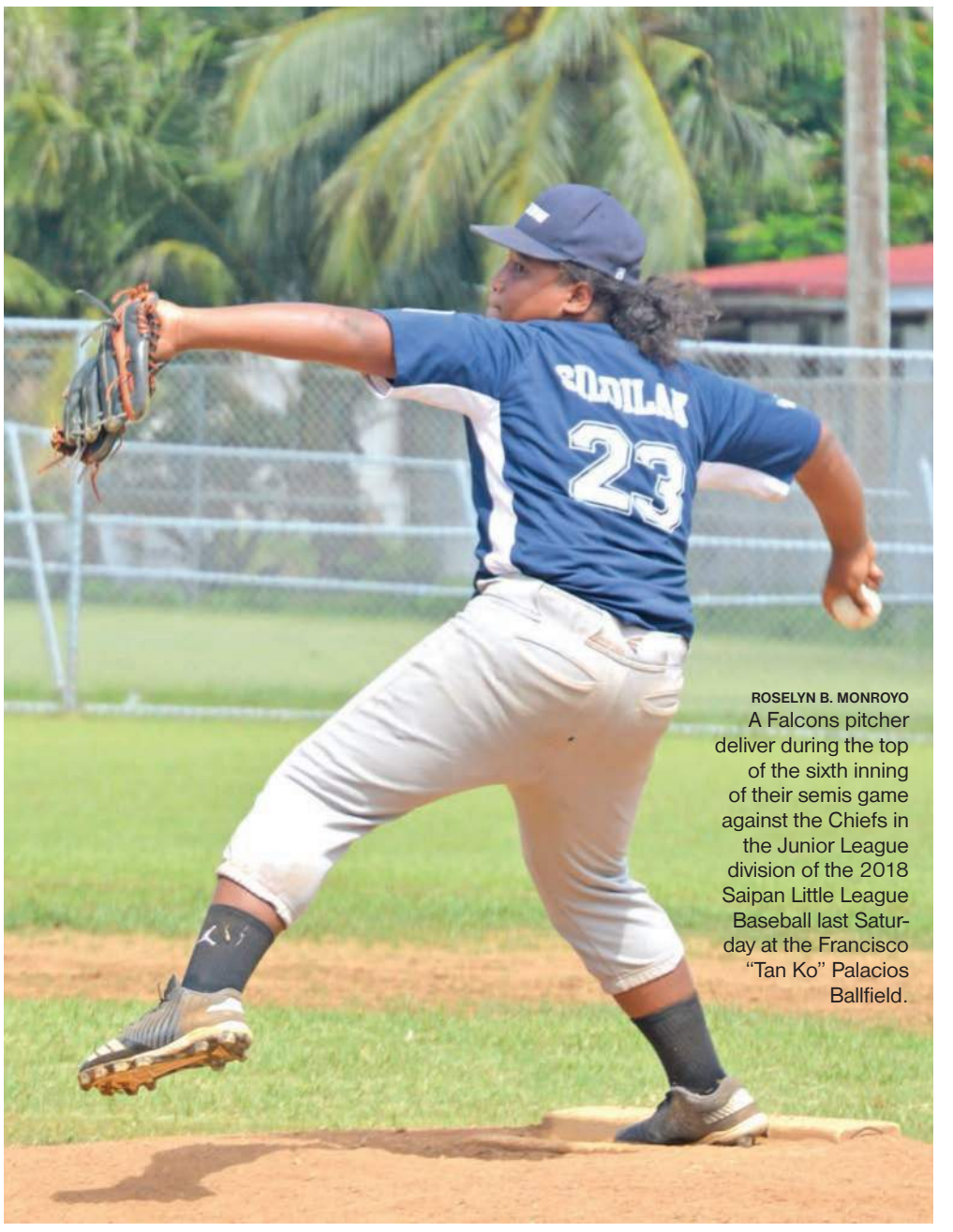

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Falcons pitcher deliver during the top of the sixth inning of their semis game against the Chiefs in the Junior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI athletes gain confidence from track meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar welcomed the medals CNMI athletes won during the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018, but also boasted the confidence the team gained from last week's competition at the Oleai Sports Complex.

"Before the tournament, they were a bit scared and tentative because they don't know what's going to happen and how will they fare against other athletes," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Now, with the competition done, I think they are more confident of their skills. They now have an idea of their opposition and will be more ready for the Micronesian

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Jamie Pangelinan, second left, sprints during the girls U18's 100m race in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 held last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Stunned Germany hopes to avoid early exit; Mexico rejoices

MOSCOW (AP)—Germany didn't play the way it usually plays. Coach Joachim Loew isn't sure why.

Stymied by Mexico's skillful forwards and speedy counterattacks, the defending World Cup champions played a sloppy first half, gave up too many chances and ultimately conceded a goal that held up in Mexico's 1-0 victory on Sunday.

"We looked nervous and we were not able to play the way we wanted to play," Loew said. "We will have to analyze why that was the case."

Germany is now in an unfamiliar position. The squad had not lost a World Cup opener since 1982 and won its four previous initial matches by a combined score of 20-2.

For a defending World Cup champion, however, the situation is more common. Three of the past four have failed to make it out of the group stage.

Reminded of that statistic, Loew offered a guarantee.

"We will not suffer that fate," he said. "We will make it to the next round."

Germany's path through Group F includes a match against Sweden next Saturday, and it then faces South Korea on June 27.

"As far as the psychological situation, everyone is unhappy, crestfallen," Loew said. "We have to look forward. We have to put this behind us. Our team certainly has experience dealing with losses, and the next match will be decisive for us. We have to win it. It goes without saying."

Although they breezed through qualifying, the Germans had enough questionable results in recent friendlies to put fans on edge, and Loew was questioned for leaving 22-year-old Manchester City winger Leroy Sane out of his squad.

The coach instead opted for another 22-year-old attacker, Julian Brandt, who entered late in Sunday's match and blasted a shot just wide of the Mexican goal about two minutes later that had Loew covering his face with his hands.

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AP
Mexico's Hirving Lozano, celebrates scoring his side's opening goal during the group F match between Germany and Mexico at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, June 17, 2018.